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LII. *A View of the Russian Empire*, during the Reign of Catharine the Second, and to the Close of the present Century. By WILLIAM TOOKE, F.R.S. Member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences and of the free Economical Society at St. Petersburg: with a Map of the Russian Empire. 3 vols. 8vo. pp. 1870. il. 7s. Longman and Rees, Debrett.

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EXTRACT FROM THE ADVERTISEMENT.

"THE Russian empire, which in various respects now fixes the attention of Europe, has for several years been the subject of a multitude of investigations and writings, by which the knowledge of that country is considerably improved and enlarged. The care which Catharine the Second, from her first accession to the throne, and during the whole of her reign, devoted to the cultivation of this knowledge, has been attended with so much success, that Russia, which, prior to the year 1762, was a sort of terra incognita in our part of the globe, is now in possession of a very considerable store of materials, from which the present state of this remarkable country may be illustrated and described. The first and most important step to the elucidation of the natural and moral condition of Russia was the appointment of the academicians of St. Petersburg to travel for the purpose of exploring its qualities in both these respects; and their journals still form the basis of all that we know with certainty of the internal state of this extensive empire. These important discoveries assisted the zeal of some industrious foreigners, who, either in the country itself, or by correspondence and connexions, collected useful materials, and communicated the result of their labours to the public. By the introduction of the governments, which, besides the beneficial effects they produced on the political administration of the empire,

greatly assisted the knowledge of the country; by the admeasurement and survey of the districts assigned them, which facilitated the construction of special charts on a more accurate plan, by the more adequate enumeration of the people, &c. but, above all, by the wise and enlightened publicity with which it was allowed to treat of these matters, this knowledge acquired such a powerful accession, that the idea of a systematical digest of all the necessary materials was no longer to be considered as a vain speculation. Busching, at first, and after him Messieurs Schlætzer, Herrmann, Hupel, and lastly Storch, drew up their topographies and statistics of the empire. Still, however, the voluminous journals of the academicians lay unopened to this country, and the travels of Pallas, Guldenstaedt, Georgi, Lepechin, Falk, the Gmelins, Fischer, and others, were in England known only by the occasional mention of their extraordinary value, with deserved encomiums on the talents and labours of their authors, in the reports of our countrymen on their return from a transient visit to St. Petersburg.

"Having passed the greater part of the long reign of the late Empress in her dominions, favoured for many years with the friendship and intimacy of two successive directors of the academy, with free access to its libraries and collections, and being personally acquainted with several of the travellers themselves, I presume to lay before the public this View of the Russian Empire, in which I have faithfully followed the authors above-mentioned, and delivered my vouchers wherever it was necessary, as the reader will generally find at the foot of the pages." Vol. i. p. iii.

EXTRACT FROM THE INTRODUCTION.

"ABOUT the middle of the year 1767 Catharine II. conceived the useful project of sending several learned men to travel into the interior of her vast territories, to enable themselves to determine the geographical position of the principal places, to mark their temperature, and to examine into the nature of their soil, their productions, their wealth, as well as the manners and characters of the several people by whom they are inhabited.

"A country of such a prodigious extent as the Russian empire must naturally attract the notice of every man who wishes to increase his knowledge, whether it be considered in regard to the astonishing number of tribes and nations by which it is inhabited, the great diversity of climates under which they live, or the almost infinite quantity of natural curiosities with which it abounds. But the greater part of this country is still immersed in the profoundest barbarism, and almost inaccessible to the investigations of the ordinary traveller. Here vagrant hordes of people, who, entirely addicted to the pastoral life, roam from place to place, shunning the social manners of towns and villages, negligent of agriculture, and leaving uncultivated and almost in a desert state vast tracts of land blessed with the most favourable soil and the most happy temperature of seasons: there, peasants, and even in many places inhabitants of towns, slaves to a thousand prejudices, languishing in bondage to the most stupid superstitions; brought up, besides, in the severest servitude, and, being accustomed to obey by no other means than blows, are forced to submit to the harshest treatment; none of those affectionate admonitions, those prudent and impelling motives, which usually urge mankind to action, make any impression on their degraded minds; they reluctantly labour the fields of a hard master, and studiously conceal from his knowledge those riches which some accident, so delirable in other countries, should have led them to discover; as they would only augment the number of their toils and the heaviness of their yoke. Hence that careless contempt for the treasures presented them by Nature, and the neglect of those bounties she lavishes on them: hence those immense deserts almost totally destitute of cultivation, and so many towns that are falling to decay." *Vol. i. p. ix.*

EXTRACTS.

FREEZING OF THE NEVA—THE EMPRESS ANNA'S PALACE OF ICE.

"THE covering of the Neva with ice, and the breaking up of it, are remarkable phenomena. When the ice is setting-in, as it is called, small detached flakes of ice are seen float-

ing down the current, which soon grow into large fields, and acquire so great a momentum, that the bridges must be hastily taken alander, to prevent their being carried away by the ice, a disaster which has happened more than once. These large plains of ice continue for a day or two passing with the current, while the boats are seen rowing between them; till all at once the floating ice flops, either by the gulf being already closed below, or the flakes of ice freezing together: when immediately foot-passengers, who have been waiting on the shores for this happy moment, go over in all safety. Nothing is more common than to see boats crossing the river, and, in two hours afterwards, to behold hundreds of people going over on foot.

"No less rapid is the departure of the ice. In the spring, the first indication of this approaching event, is the standing of the snow-water on the ice; then the ice becomes more porous, or divides into spiculae, lets the water through, and becomes of a blackish colour. At length it parts, while the roads that have been well trod during the winter still remain; so that often foot-passengers are seen on these roads, and between them and the floating sheets of ice, boats in great numbers passing and repassing. By the force of the current, and shocks received from the floating ice, at length the roads give way; the ice continues to fall down with the stream for a day or two to the gulf, and the whole river is clear. A week or a fortnight after this, the ice of the Ladoga comes down, which, according as the wind may happen to be, continues a couple or more days, sometimes as many weeks, and renders the atmosphere uncommonly chill.

"The ice and the cold are of service to the inhabitants in various ways. Distances are much shortened by their means, insomuch as people, horses, and carriages of all sorts, and of ever so great burden, can cross the Neva, and the other rivers, lakes, and canals, in all places and directions: and the Cronstadt gulf supplies, in some measure, the want of navigation during the winter, by the transport of commodities of every denomination over the ice. As ice-cellars here are a necessary of life, for keeping provisions of all kinds during the summer, so every house in every quarter

ter of the town is provided with one of them, to be filled with large blocks cut out of the river. This operation generally takes place about the beginning of February. The ice also promotes the pleasure of the inhabitants, by giving them an opportunity for the diversion of sledge and horse-racing, and for that of the ice-hills so much admired by the populace. The weight of these ice-hills, together with that of a multitude sometimes of 5000 or 6000 persons standing about them on holidays, give the spectator a surprising idea of the strength and solidity of the ice.

"What may be executed in ice was shown by the ice palace which the Empress Anna caused to be built on the bank of the Neva in 1740. It was constructed of huge quadrats of ice hewn in the manner of free-stone: the edifice was 52 feet in length, 16 in breadth, and 20 in height. The walls were three feet thick. In the several apartments were tables, chairs, beds, and all kinds of household furniture of ice. In front of the palace, besides pyramids and statues, stood six cannons carrying balls of six pounds weight, and two mortars, of ice. From one of the former, as a trial, an iron ball, with only a quarter of a pound of powder, was fired off. The ball went through a two-inch board, at 60 paces from the mouth of the cannon; and the piece of ice artillery, with its lavee, remained uninjured by the explosion. The illumination of the ice palace at night had an astonishingly grand effect." *Vol. i. p. 47.*

EFFECTS OF THE COLD.

"THE severe cold here has not that violent benumbing effect either on man or beast as people in southern climates might imagine. This seems to be principally founded on the dry quality of the air during the frost, and perhaps in some measure may be owing to habit, by which both men and the inferior animals are hardened to the climate. However this be, from the dryness of the atmosphere, foreigners, according to the universal testimony of them all, suffer much less from the cold than they do from

less degrees of it in other countries. The drivers and their horses, from beingseasoned to the cold, feel little or no inconvenience in pursuing their employment through the streets of the town and along the roads, though the beards of the former and the muzzles of the latter are covered with hoarfrost and little icicles from the congealing of their breath; and in the severest colds they travel all day without receiving any detriment. Nay, even in from 20 to 24 degrees of Reaumur, women will stand rinsing the linen through holes in the ice, four, five, or six hours together, often barefoot, with their hands dipping in the water all the while, and their drabbed petticoats stiff with ice." *Vol. i. p. 53.*

CHARACTER AND MANNERS OF THE RUSSIANS.

"THE Russians are a race much hardened by climate, education, and habits of life, having their own peculiar usages, which have a greater affinity with the Asiatic than the European, only without the effeminacy. They sleep on the floor, the hard benches, or the boards placed shelf-wise for that purpose; in the summer contentedly lying down in the open air, in the field, or the yard of the house, as they do in the winter on the top of the oven, without beds, or merely on a piece of felt, sometimes with and often without any pillow, either under a thin covering or in their clothes. After performing their evening devotions, accompanied with frequent prostrations and croakings before the sacred figures of the saints, they betake themselves early to rest, and rise again betimes in the morning, wash themselves, renew their pious orisons, and proceed with alacrity to business. Into the houses of the great and opulent, even at a distance from chief towns, feather-beds and late hours, with other luxuries, have long since found their way.

"Whenever acquaintance meet together, their term of greeting is—*Zdravstvui!** or, sometimes, *Zdarovui!*† accompanied with shaking of hands, taking off the cap, bowing,

* "Which may be rendered, All hail! or, God save thee! or, Good be-tide thee!—Salve! Sit salut!"

† "Health!—Sospes! Sanus!"

and often with kissing, which is much in practice with both sexes. Even the lowest of the people greet one another with great civility. Inferiors kiss their superiors on the breast, and of people still more elevated above them they kiss the border of the garment; and, when the difference is very great, they fall down and strike their forehead upon the shoe of the great man. When they have any thing to request, they assume a tone and gesture, as if they were imploring mercy. It is indecorous to speak loud in the presence of superiors; and if any one happen to do so, he is presently chid by the bystanders, with—“Do not bawl!” When a man designs to honour his guests, he lets his wife and daughters appear, full dressed, who kiss the guests, and hand them what they want at the entertainment. They seem to vie with one another in the profusions of hospitality. Old age is universally honoured. On the breaking up of company, they depart, saying, *Proshail* (farewell), never omitting the valedictory kiss. On the slightest interruption or alteration to the ordinary course of whatever they are about, at eating, drinking, freezing, at a sudden start, at the sight of a particular place, of a church, &c. they make the sign of the cross with the fingers, on the forehead, the stomach, and the two shoulders, bowing several times, and adding, with a deep-fetched sigh, “The Lord have mercy!”

“They have usually two meals in the day; in the forenoon about nine o'clock, and in the afternoon at three. The family at these times eat all together; and when it is numerous, first the males and afterwards those of the other sex. They allow themselves but a short time at table, and are easy and cheerful. Even among the inferior people the table-linen, platters, and vessels, are kept in great cleanliness. If strangers sit down with them there are very copious potations. Intoxication is not disgraceful, and even among people of good condition, if a lady be overtaken in liquor, it is no subject of reproach. They are never quarrelsome or scurrilous in their cups, but friendly, jovial, courteous, speak in praise of the absent, and boast of their friendship; and those that are not able to stand, find ready assistance from those that can. On journeys, mer-

chants and others take their food with remarkably few formalities. In towns and great village stations, women sit in the street, near public houses, with tables having roast and boiled meat, fish, pirogues, cabbage-soup, cucumbers, bread, and quas, consequently a superb and every where a cheap repast, which is taken standing, and always accompanied with a glass or two of brandy.

“Holidays are kept in idleness and wanton jollity. No one neglects to keep his birth and name’s-day, and those of his family. The day is opened by devout attendance on mass; then the person whose festival it is gives an entertainment of the best he can provide to his friends, who, to show their attention to him, present themselves uninvited at his house. The poor make their masters and patrons a present of a loaf of bread, a few apples, or some trifle of that sort, in order to get a return in money, to enable them to entertain their friends, which they faithfully employ to that purpose, and generally finish the day with a hearty drunken-bout.

“To hot and cold bathing they are so habituated from their earliest infancy, that the practice is indispensable. They usually go into the hot-bath once a week, besides other frequent occasions, such as, after a flight indisposition, hard work, on returning from a journey, and the like. They use the bath very hot, heating the room with large stones made glowing red, and raising a vapour, by repeatedly throwing water upon them; the room all the while being so tight that no particles of heat or vapour can transpire. The bather lies extended naked upon a mat thrown on one of the shelves of the scaffold, which the higher he ascends, the greater the heat he feels. When he has thus lain perspiring for some time, the waiter of the bath, generally a female, comes and washes his body all over with hot water, scourges, and rubs him with bunches of leafy birch, wipes him with cloths, and then leaves him to lie and sweat as long as he chooses. Numbers of them run from the hot bath into the cold water, flowing by, and in winter roll themselves in the snow, without deriving any bad consequences from it.” Vol. i. p. 368.

(To be concluded in our next.)

LIII. Park's Travels in the Interior Districts of Africa. (Concluded from p. 256.)

REMARKABLE CONDUCT OF THE KING OF THE JALOFFS.

May 3, 1797.

"WE reached Malacotta in the evening, where we were well received. This is an unvalued town; the huts for the most part are made of split cane, twisted into a sort of wicker-work, and plastered over with mud. Here we remained three days, and were each day presented with a bullock from the schoolmaster; we were likewise well entertained by the townspeople, who appear to be very active and industrious. They make very good soap, by boiling ground nuts in water, and then adding a ley of wood ashes. They likewise manufacture excellent iron, which they carry to Bondou to barter for salt. A party of the townspeople had lately returned from a trading expedition of this kind, and brought information concerning a war between Almani Abdulkader, king of Footh Torra, and Damel, king of the Jaloffs. The events of this war soon became a favourite subject with the singing men, and the common topic of conversation in all the kingdoms bordering upon the Senegal and Gambia; and as the account is somewhat singular, I shall here abridge it, for the reader's information. The king of Footh Torra, inflamed with a zeal for propagating his religion, had sent an embassy to Damel. The ambassador, on the present occasion, was accompanied by two of the principal Bushreens, who carried each a large knife, fixed on the top of a long pole. As soon as he had procured admission into the presence of Damel, and announced the pleasure of his sovereign, he ordered the Bushreens to present the emblems of his mission. The two knives were accordingly laid before Damel, and the ambassador explained himself as follows: 'With this knife,' said he, 'Abdulkader will condescend to shave the head of Damel, if Damel will embrace the Mahomedan faith; and with this other knife, Abdulkader will cut the throat of Damel, if Damel refuses to embrace it:—take your choice.' Damel coolly told the ambassador that he had no choice to make: he neither chose to have his head shaved, nor his throat cut; and with this answer the ambassador was civilly dismissed. Abdulkader took his measures accordingly, and with a powerful army invaded Damel's country. The inhabitants of the towns and villages filled up their wells, destroyed their provisions, carried off their effects, and abandoned their dwellings, as he approached. By this means he was led on from place to place, until he had advanced three days journey into the country of the Jaloffs. He had, indeed, met with no opposition; but his army had suffered so much from the scarcity of water, that several of his men had died by the way. This induced him to direct his march towards a watering-place in the woods, where his men, having quenched their thirst, and being overcome with fatigue, lay down carelessly to sleep among the bushes. In this situation they were attacked by Damel, before daybreak, and completely routed. Many of them were trampled to death as they lay asleep, by the Jaloff horses; others were killed in attempting to make their escape; and a still greater number were taken prisoners. Among the latter, was Abdulkader himself. This ambitious, or rather frantic prince, who, but a month before, had sent the threatening message to Damel, was now himself led into his presence as a miserable captive. The behaviour of Damel, on this occasion, is never mentioned by the singing men, but in terms of the highest approbation; and it was, indeed, so extraordinary, in an African prince, that the reader may find it difficult to give credit to the recital. When his royal prisoner was brought before him in irons, and thrown upon the ground, the magnanimous Damel, instead of setting his foot upon his neck, and stabbing him with his spear, according to custom in such cases, addressed him as follows: 'Abdulkader, answer me this question. If the chance of war had placed me in your situation, and you in mine, how would you have treated me?'—'I would have thrust my spear into your heart,' returned Abdulkader with great firmness; 'and I know that a similar fate awaits me.'—'Not so,' said Damel; 'my spear is indeed red with the blood of your subjects killed in battle, and I could now give it a deeper stain, by dipping it in your own;

own; but this would not build up my towns, nor bring to life the thousands who fell in the woods. I will not therefore kill you in cold blood, but I will retain you as my slave, until I perceive that your presence in your own kingdom will be no longer dangerous to your neighbours; and then I will consider of the proper way of disposing of you.' Abdulkader was accordingly retained, and worked as a slave for three months; at the end of which period, Damel listened to the solicitations of the inhabitants of Footh Torra, and restored to them their king. Strange as this story may appear, I have no doubt of the truth of it; it was told me at Malacotta by the Negroes; it was afterwards related to me by the Europeans on the Gambia; by some of the French at Goree; and confirmed by nine slaves, who were taken prisoners along with Abdulkader, by the watering-place in the woods, and carried in the same ship with me to the West Indies." P. 341.

IDEAS OF THE ANCIENT AND MODERN GEOGRAPHERS RESPECTING THE COURSE OF THE NIGER.

"THE late journey of Mr. Park, into the interior of Western Africa, has brought to our knowledge more important facts respecting its geography (both *moral* and *physical*), than have been collected by any former traveller. By pointing out to us the positions of the sources of the great rivers Senegal, Gambia, and Niger*, we are instructed where to look for the elevated parts of the country; and even for the most elevated point in the western quarter of Africa, by the place from whence the Niger and Gambia turn in opposite directions to the east and west. We are taught, moreover, the common boundary of the desert and fruitful parts of the country, and of the Moors and

* "I here use the word *Niger*, as being the best understood by Europeans; but the proper name of this river in the country seems to be *Guin* or *Jin*. (Hartmann's Edrifi, p. 32. 48. 51.) At the same time, it is more commonly denominated by the term *Joliba*, meaning the Great Water, or great river. In like manner, the Ganges has two names, *Padda*, the proper name; and *Gonga*, the great river.

"The Moors and Arabs call it *Neel Abeeid*, the River of Slaves; but they have also a name to express the great water, that is, *Neel Kibbeer*. *Neel* appears to be employed in Africa, as *Gonga* in India, to express any great river.

"By *Niger*, the ancients meant merely to express the River of the Black People, or Ethiopians. The term was Roman: for the Greeks believed it to be the head, or a branch, of the Egyptian Nile."

Negroes; which latter is the more interesting, as it may be termed a boundary in *moral* geography; from the opposite qualities of mind, as well as of body, of the Moors and Negroes: for that physical geography gives rise to habits, which often determine national character, must be allowed by every person, who is a diligent observer of mankind.

"It must be acknowledged, that the absolute extent of Mr. Park's progress in Africa, compared with the amazing size of that continent, appears but small, although it be nearly 1100 British miles in a direct line, reckoned from its western extremity, Cape Verd. But considered in itself, it is no inconsiderable line of travel; being more extensive than the usual southern tour of Europe.

"But moreover, it affords a triumph to the learned, in that it confirms some points of fact, both of geography and natural history, which have appeared in ancient authors, but to which our own want of knowledge has denied credit. I allude more particularly to the course of the Niger, and the history of the Lotophagi. That the Greeks and Romans, who had formed great establishments in Africa, and the latter in particular, who had penetrated to the Niger, should have had better opportunities of knowing the interior part of the country, than we, who live at a distance from it, and possess only a few scattered factories near the sea-coast, is not to be wondered at: but the proof of such facts should teach us to be less hasty in decrying the authority of ancient authors; since the fault may arise from a want of comprehension on our parts, or from an assumption of false principles on theirs.

"Few geographical facts have been more questioned in modern times, than the course of the great inland river of Africa, generally understood by the

name of *Niger*; some describing it to run to the *west*, others to the *east*; but of these opinions, I believe the former has been espoused by the most numerous party, by far*. Although Mr. Park's authority, founded on ocular demonstration, sets this question *forever at rest*, by determining the course of the river to be from *west to east*, as Major Houghton's information had previously induced a belief of, yet it may not be amiss to trace the history of the opinions, concerning the course of this celebrated river, from the earliest date of profane history.

"Herodotus, more than twenty-two centuries ago, describes, from the information of the Africans, a great river of Africa, far removed to the south of the Great Desert, and abounding with crocodiles: that it flowed from *west to east*, dividing Africa, in like manner as the Danube does Europe: that the people from the borders of the Mediterranean, who made the discovery, were carried to a great city on the banks of the river in question; and that the people of this quarter were *black*; that is, much blacker than their visitors. Our author, indeed, took this river to be the remote branch of the Egyptian Nile, and reasons on the circumstance, accordingly: but even this argument serves to express, in a more forcible manner, the supposed direction of its course.

"Pliny also believed that the Nile came from the *west*; but he is far from identifying it with the Niger, which he describes as a distinct river. But we have at least his negative opinion respecting its western course; for he speaks of the Bambutus river as running into the western ocean; meaning to express by it either the Gambia or Senegal river, and not the Niger.

"Ptolemy is positive in describing the Niger as a separate stream from the Senegal and Gambia, which two rivers are designed by him under the names of *Daradus* and *Stachir*; and they are by no means ill expressed; falling into the sea on different sides of the Ar-siarium promontory, or Cape Verd†. The Niger of Ptolemy is made to ex-

tend from west to east, over half the breadth of Africa, between the Atlantic ocean, and the course of the Nile.

"These may suffice for the ancient authorities, which in very early times fixed the course of the Niger in the systems of geography, to be *from west to east*. Who it was that first led the way, in the opposite opinion, I know not; but we find Edrisi, in the twelfth century, not only conducting the *Nile of the Negroes*, or Niger, *westward*, and into the Atlantic, but also *deriving* it from the Egyptian Nile; which is diametrically opposite to the opinion of Herodotus.

"Such an opinion marks the very imperfect state of his knowledge of African geography; and should induce a degree of caution in receiving other opinions of the same author, where they rest absolutely on his own authority. It is very probable that the waters which collect on the *west* of Nubia, may *run to the west*, and be lost in lakes; and it is possible, though very improbable, that a branch of the Nile may take the same course: but fortified by the present state of our knowledge, we may certainly pronounce the general scope of the intelligence communicated by Edrisi, respecting the course of the Niger, to be erroneous." P. iii.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF NORTH AFRICA.

"TO our view, North Africa appears to be composed of three distinct parts or members. The first and smallest is a fertile region along the Mediterranean, lying opposite to Spain, France, and Italy (commonly distinguished by the name of Barbary); and which could we suppose the western basin of the Mediterranean to have been once *dry land* (bearing a lake or recipient for the surrounding rivers), might be regarded as a part of Europe; as possessing much more of the European than the African character.

"The second part is what may be deemed the *body* of North Africa, comprised between the Red Sea and Cape

* "M. J. Lalande, almost at the moment of Mr. Park's investigation, has determined its course to be to the *west*; notwithstanding the forcible reasoning of his countryman D'Anville. (*Mémoire sur l'Intérieur de l'Afrique.*) Mr. Bruce was of the same opinion. Vol. iii. p. 720. 724."

† "Probably a corruption of *Senagi*; or *Affenbagi*, as the early Portuguese discoverers write it. These were a great tribe."

Verd, on the east and west; and having the Great Desert (or *Sahara*) and its members, on the north; the Ethiopic ocean, and South Africa, on the opposite side. The prominent feature of this immense region, is a vast *belt of elevated land*, of great breadth, often swelling into lofty mountains, and running generally from west to east, about the tenth degree of latitude. Its western extremity seems to be C. Verd; the mountains of Abyssinia, the eastern. To the north, its ramifications are neither numerous, nor extensive, if we except the elevated tract which turns the Nile to the northward, beyond Abyssinia. Towards the south, no particulars are known, save that a multitude of rivers, some of them very large, descend from that side, and join the Atlantic and Ethiopic seas, from the Rio Grande on the west, to Cape Lopez on the east; proving incontestably that by far the greatest proportion of rain-water falls on that side, during the periodical season of the S. W. winds; which corresponds in all its circumstances with the same monsoon in India.* P. lxxxii.

"The third part is, of course, the Great Desert (or *Sahara*), and its members; consisting of the lesser deserts of Bornou, Bilma, Barca, Sort, &c. This may be considered as an

ocean of sand, presenting a surface equal in extent to about one half of Europe, and having its gulfs, and bays; as also its islands, fertile in groves and pastures, and in many instances containing a great population, subject to order and regular government. The great body, or western division of this ocean, comprised between Fezzan and the Atlantic, is no less than 50 caravan journeys across, from north to south; or from 750 to 800 G. miles; and double that extent, in length: without doubt the largest desert in the world." P. lxxxiii.

"Tombuctoo is reckoned the mart of the Mandinga gold, from whence it is distributed over the northern quarters of Africa, by the merchants of Tunis, Tripoli, Fezzan, and Morocco; all of whom resort to Tombuctoo. Most of it, no doubt, afterwards finds its way into Europe. It may be remarked, also, that the *Gold Coast* of Guinea (so called, doubtless, from its being the place of traffic for gold dust) is situated nearly opposite to Manding: but whether the gold, brought thither, has been washed out of the mountains by the *northern* or *southern* streams, I know not: it may be by both; for a part of the gold of Wangara is brought for sale to the southern coast†. Degom-bah, another country, said to be very pro-

* "A ridge stretches to the south, through the middle of South Africa, and forms an impenetrable barrier between the two coasts. M. Correa de Serra informs me, that the Portuguese in Congo and Angola have never been able to penetrate to the coast of the Indian ocean.

"Mr. Bruce learnt (vol. iii. p. 668.) that a high chain of mountains from 6° runs southward through the middle of Africa. He supposes the gold of Sofala to be drawn from these mountains. (P. 669.)"

† "Some writers have said, that there are gold *mines* in the neighbourhood of Mina, on the Gold Coast, others, that the gold is rolled down by the rivers to that neighbourhood. Both may be true.

"It is difficult to conceive any other adequate cause, than the exchange of the gold of the inland countries, for the introduction of so vast a quantity of *kowry* shells, which are carried from Europe to the Coast of Guinea, and pass for small money in the countries along the Niger, from Bambara to Kassina, both inclusive.

"I am informed from authority, that about 100 tons of kowries are annually shipped from England alone, to Guinea. These are originally imported from the Maldivian islands into Bengal; and from Bengal into England. In Bengal, 2400, more or less, are equal to a shilling: and yet notwithstanding the incredible smallness of the denomination, some article in the market may be purchased for a single kowry. But in the inland parts of Africa, they are about ten times as dear; varying from 220 to 280. Mr. Beaufoy was told that, in Kassina, they were at the rate of about 250: and Mr. Park reports, that they are about the same price at Segor, but *cheaper* at Tombuctoo, which is about the *centre* of the kowry country; *dearer* towards Manding, which is the western extremity of it. Hence they are probably carried in the first instance to Tombuctoo,

productive in gold, must, by its situation, lie directly opposite to the Gold Coast: for it lies immediately to the east of Kong (the Gonjah of Mr. Beaufoy, and the Conche of D'Anville)."
P. lxxxv.

"The common boundary of the Moors and Negroes, in Africa, forms a striking feature, as well in the moral, as the political and physical geography of this continent. The Moors, descendants of Arabs, intermixed with the various colonists of Africa, from the earliest to the latest times, overspread the habitable parts of the desert, and the oases (islands) within it: and have pushed their conquests and establishments southward; pressing on the Negro aborigines, who have in several instances retired to the southward of the great rivers; but in others, preserve their footing on the side towards the desert; according to the strength or openness of the situation. It is probable, however, that the Negroes, who are an agricultural people, never possessed any considerable portion of the desert, which is so much better suited to the pastoral life of the Moors. It appears as if matters had not undergone much change in this respect, since the days of Herodotus; who fixes the boundary of the Libyans and Ethiopians, in other words, of the Moors and Negroes, near the borders of the Niger; and he apparently pointed to the quarter in which Kassina or Ghana are now situated.

"The Negroes in the western quarter of the continent, are of two distinct races, of which the least numerous are named Foulahs, or Foolahs. These, although they partake much of the Negro form and complexion, have neither their jetty colour, thick lips, or crizzled hair. They have also a language distinct from the Mandinga, which is the prevailing one in this quarter.

"The original country of the Foulahs is said to be a tract of no great extent, along the eastern branch of the Senegal river; situated between Manding and Kasson; Bambouk and Kartta: which bears the name of *Fouladou*, or the country of the Foulahs. But whether this be really the case, or whether they might not have come from the country within Serra Leona (called

also the Foulah country), may be a question. The Foulahs occupy, at least, as sovereigns, several provinces or kingdoms, interpersed throughout the tract comprehended between the mountainous border of the country of Serra Leona, on the west, and that of Tombuctoo, on the east; as also, a large tract on the lower part of the Senegal river: and these provinces are insulated from each other in a very remarkable manner. Their religion is Mahomedanism, but with a great mixture of Paganism; and with less intolerance than is practised by the Moors.

"The principal of the Foulah states is that within Serra Leona; and of which Teemboo is the capital. The next in order appears to be that bordering on the south of the Senegal river, and on the Jallofs: and which is properly named Siratik. Others of less note, are Bondou, with Foota-Torra, adjacent to it, lying between the rivers Gambia and Faleme; Focadou, and Brooko, along the upper part of the Senegal river; Waffela, beyond the upper part of the Niger; and Massina, lower down on the same river, and joining to Tombuctoo on the west.

"The Moors have in very few instances established themselves on the south of the great rivers. They have advanced *farther* to the *south* in the western quarter of Africa; so that the common boundary of the two races passes, in respect of the parallels on the globe, with a considerable degree of obliquity to the north, in its way from the river Senegal towards Nubia, and the Nile. Mr. Park arranges the Moorish states which form the *frontier* towards Nigritia, together with the Negro states opposed to them, on the south, in the line of his progress, in the following order:

"The small Moorish state of Gedumah, situated on the north bank of the Senegal river, and the last that touches on it, is opposed to the final Negro kingdom of Kajaaga, on the south. This latter occupies the extremity of the navigable course of the Senegal, terminated in this place by the cataract of F'low.

"From this point, the Negro and Foulah states occupy *both* banks of the Senegal river, to its source: and be-

buctoo, the gold market: and thence distributed to the east and west. Their circulation seems to be confined between Bornou and Manding. In Bornou they have a coinage of base metal."

yond that, *bore* banks of the Niger (or Joliba) likewise to the lake Dibbie, situated beyond the term of Mr. Park's expedition. This place is divided, unequally, between Kaffon, a hilly strong country, but of small extent; and which has the Moors of Jaffnoo on the north; Kaarta, a considerable state, which has Ludamar for its opposite (a country held by Ali, a Moorish prince, who is loaded with infamy, on the score of maltreatment of the only two Europeans, who appear to have entered his country, in latter times); Bambara, of still more consideration, which has on the north, the Moorish kingdom of Beeroo, and Massina, a Feulah state.

"Here Mr. Park's personal knowledge ends; but he learnt that Tombučoo and Houſſa, which succeed in order to Massina, and occupy both sides of the Niger, are Moorish states, though with the greatest proportion of Negro subjects: so that the river may be considered as the boundary of the two races in this quarter." *P. lxxxvii.*

"The contrast between the Moorish and Negro characters is as great as that between the nature of their respective countries; or between their form and complexion. The Moors appear to possess the vices of the Arabs, without their virtues; and to avail themselves of an intolerant religion, to oppress strangers: whilst the Negroes, and especially the Mandingas, unable to comprehend a doctrine, that substitutes opinion or belief, for the social duties, are content to remain in their humble state of ignorance. The hospitality shown by these good people to Mr. Park, a destitute and forlorn stranger, raises them very high in the scale of humanity: and I know of no fitter title to confer on them, than that of the *Hindoos of Africa*: at the same time, by no means intending to degrade the Mahomedans of India, by a comparison with the African Moors." *P. xcii.*

LIV. *Browne's Travels in Africa, Egypt, and Syria.* (Continued from p. 246.)

ANCIENT THEBES.

"I FOUND the inhabitants of the Thebaic district had been recently in open rebellion against the Mamlüks, but they were now somewhat

more quiet. The Troglodytes of the caverns remained tumultuous, and sometimes opposed the troops of the Bey, by firing from their recesses; at other times they would retreat to the mountains, and leave all pursuit behind.

"The massy and magnificent forms of the ruins that remain of ancient Thebes, the capital of Egypt, the city of Jove, the city with a hundred gates, must inspire every intelligent spectator with awe and admiration. Distributed on both sides of the Nile, their extent confirms the classical observations, and Homer's animated description rushes into the memory:

"Egyptian Thebes, in whose palaces vast wealth is stored; from each of whose hundred gates issue two hundred warriors, with their horses and chariots."

"These venerable ruins, probably the most ancient in the world, extend for about three leagues in length along the Nile. East and west they reach to the mountains, a breadth of about two leagues and a half. The river is here about three hundred yards broad. The circumference of the ancient city must therefore have been about twenty-seven miles.

"In sailing up the Nile, the first village you come to within the precincts is *Kourna*, on the west, where there are few houses, the people living mostly in the caverns. Next is *Abbadadj*, a village, and *Karnak*, a small district, both on the east. Far the largest portion of the city stood on the eastern side of the river. On the south-west *Medinet-Abu* marks the extremity of the ruins; for Arment, which is about two leagues to the south, cannot be considered as a part.

"Modern authors have styled the site of Thebes *Luxor*, a name which is not in my journal taken on the spot, nor does my memory retain a trace of such an appellation, not to mention that the word is not Arabic. Some write *Akfor*, which convinces me that both are corruptions of *El Kuffür*, the real term, which is still applied to the ruins by the Arabs. Norden is very imperfect in his Arabic names, as well as his topography.

"In describing the ruins, we shall begin with the most considerable, which are on the east of the Nile. The chief is the Great Temple, an oblong square building, of vast extent, with a double colonnade,

colonnade, one at each extremity. The massive columns and walls are covered with hieroglyphics, a labour truly stupendous. 1. The Great Temple stands in the district called *Karnac*.

" 2. Next in importance is the temple at *Abu-Hadjadj*.

"3. Numerous ruins, avenues marked with remains of sphinxes, &c. On the west side of the Nile appear,

"1. Two colossal figures, apparently of a man and woman, formed of a calcareous stone like the rest of the ruins.

" 2. Remains of a large temple, with caverns excavated in the rock.

"3. The magnificent edifice styled the *palace of Memnon*. Some of the columns are about forty feet high, and about nine and a half in diameter. The columns and walls are covered with hieroglyphics. This stands at Kourna.

"4. Behind the palace is the passage styled Bibân-el-Molûk, leading up the mountain. At the extremity of this passage, in the sides of the rock, are the celebrated caverns known as the sepulchres of the ancient kings.

"Several of these sepulchres have been described by Pococke with sufficient minuteness; he has even given plans of them. But in conversation with persons at Assiut and in other parts of Egypt, I was always informed that they had not been discovered till within the last thirty years, when a son of Shech Hamâm, a very powerful chief of the Arabs, who governed all the south of Egypt from Achmîm to Nubia, caused four of them to be opened, in expectation of finding treasure.

" They had probably been rifled in very ancient times; but how the memory of them should have been lost remains to be explained. One of those which I visited exactly answers Dr. Pococke's description; but the other three appear materially different from any of his plans. It is therefore possible that some of those which he saw have been gradually closed up by the sand, and that the son of Hamâm had discovered others.

" They are cut into the free-stone rock, in appearance, upon one general plan, though differing in parts. First, a passage of some length; then a chamber; a continuation of the first passage turns abruptly to the right, where is the large sepulchral chamber, with a sarcophagus of red granite in the midst.

" In the second part of the passage of the largest are several cells or recesses on both sides. In these appear the chief paintings, representing the mysteries, which, as well as the hieroglyphics covering all the walls, are very fresh. I particularly observed the two harpers described by Bruce; but his engraved figures seem to be from memory. The French merchant at Kahira informed me that he brought with him two Italian artists; one was Luigi Balugani, a Bolognese, the other Zucci, a Florentine.

"On landing my Greek servant at Kourna, no male inhabitants appeared, but two or three women were standing at the entrance of one of their dens. As we passed in quest of the Shech-el-belad, to request a guide, one of the women said in Arabic, 'Are you not afraid of crocodiles?' I replied in the negative. She said emphatically, 'We are crocodiles,' and proceeded to depict her own people as thieves and murderers. They are indeed a ferocious clan, differing in person from other Egyptians. Spears, twelve or fourteen feet in length, are fudged and deadly weapons in their hands. At Kahira, Mohammed Bey Elfi had told me I should here need a guard of twenty men, but I found two guides assigned me by the Shech-el-belad sufficient.

"In the temple at *Medinet Abu* we observed a large quantity of blood, and were told by the peasants of Beirzat that the Kournef had there murdered a Muggrelbá and a Greek, travellers passing from Assuán to Kahira, who had strayed thither from mere curiosity, or perhaps with a view of finding treasure, in which the Muggrelbá pretend to superior skill.

"At the village called *Beirat* is a native spring; and some others, I was told, are found in the neighbourhood, the water of which is different from that of the Nile, yet sweet.

"Walled towns, it has been observed by Pococke, were not common in Egypt, and therefore, he adds, it is probable that Thebes was never surrounded by a wall.—That the passage in Homer refers not to the gates of the city, must readily be admitted. But it appears to me likely that Thebes was walled, from some faint remains, which are even to this day visible. In the precincts of the vast temple at Aklor or El-Kussür, is discoverable a small chamber

chamber, lined either with red granite or with porphyry, on ascending to the roof of which from without, and directing the eye to the southward, in a straight line, as far as it can reach, an insulated mass is seen, which has the appearance of having been a gate. With a telescope, from the same spot, are visible other still more imperfect remains, under the same circumstances, in the directions west and north. From their situation, precisely opposed to each other, and at the three cardinal points, at so great a distance, rather than from any stronger circumstance, I was inclined to believe that these may have been three gates.—That to the west is very near the mountains on that side.” P. 134.

THE AUTHOR'S DETENTION ON ENTERING DAR-FUR.

“ BEFORE leaving Kahirra, I was apprized that all commerce in Dar-fur was conducted by means of simple exchange. To carry on this in such a way as not to be grossly defrauded, especially having my attention engrossed by other objects, and in utter ignorance of the articles fit for bargain and sale in this country, seemed wholly impossible; I therefore sought for a person who might go through this business for me, at least with some share of probity. Such a one arose to the notice of my friends there; and knowing nothing more of the man, as indeed I could not know any thing more, than the character they gave of him, I took him on the general recommendation of being honest, and understanding the business in which he was likely to be employed. The person recommended had been a slave-broker in the market of Kahirra; a circumstance which, had it been known to me earlier, would probably have prevented my employing him. Till the moment of departure I observed in him keenness but no fraud, and in general that submissive acquiescence and absolute devotion to the will of the superior, for which the lower class of Kahirines are externally, at least, remarkable. The hour for commencing our march, however, seemed with him the signal for disobedience and insulting behaviour; and we were not yet far removed from the confines of Egypt, when this misconduct was carried to such an excess, that I once le-

velled my gun at him, with a view of inspiring terror. The merchants around us interfered, and for the time this passed off; but the man only sought an opportunity of revenge, which the prejudices of the people of Soudan, in direct opposition to my former information, too soon afforded him means to gratify.

“ The letters with which I was provided for different merchants in this district, under whose roof I might have had a safe lodging, could be of no use to me till I had seen the Sultan; for till then, no person knew in what character to receive me. The object of this man therefore was to prevent my introduction to the Sultan, and to preclude me from any opportunity of representing my case. We were no sooner arrived at Sweini, than he found means to employ one of his associates, who had been some years established in the place, to go to the monarch, and infuse into his mind suspicions of me as a Frank and an infidel, who came to his country for no good purpose, and whose designs it behoved him to guard against; and to suggest to him, that it would not be proper I should remain at large, nor yet immediately come to his presence, but that some person should be commissioned to watch over and report my actions, and thus frustrate my supposed evil intentions. He added, as I afterwards found, many anecdotes, falsified or exaggerated, of the inquiries I had made, the way I had been employed, and my general behaviour on the road.

“ Nor was the villain himself idle during the time his coadjutor was thus laudably engaged. I have already mentioned that there were no doors to the apartments of the house we were in. He took advantage of this circumstance, and my momentary absence, to take out of a box, which had been broken on the road, a quantity of red coral, the most valuable article in my package. As the box remained locked, it was not till long after that I discovered this loss. By the help of this commodity he expected to make his way with the greater. At the end of a few days this agent returned, bearing a specious letter, impressed with the Sultan's seal; ordering, that no officer on the road should presume to detain me, or to take any thing from me, till I came to the house of Ibrahim-el-Wabaiibi (the name of this very agent),

in Cobbé, where I was to rest myself, till further orders should be given for my admission to his presence. I was not indeed at that time privy to the plot, yet if I could have obtained a knowledge of it, it might not have been easily immediately to counteract its influence; nevertheless I suspected something might have been practised against me.

" An order from the despot, which, while it was to protect me from his officers on the road, obliged me to confine myself to a particular spot, was a matter of surprise to me; but submition was unavoidable, as I was at that time unprovided even with the means of remonstrance. Had the machinations of my adversaries, which went much farther than my confinement, having been actually employed against my life, been at that time known to me, this feverity would not have caused any astonishment, and the means of redress might have been less doubtful. But suspense filled the void of positive suffering—a suspense to which no apparent remedy suggested itself. Those who had known me in Egypt, or on the road, were dispersed to the east and west, and the people of the place were ill disposed to form any communication with me, being filled with religious horror of one supposed an infidel, but of yet undefined impiety, and whose colour, variously regarded as the sign of disease, the mark of divine displeasure, or, at least, the unequivocal proof of inferiority of species, had averted their wonted hospitality, closed their compassion, and inflamed their personal pride and religious fury.

" It was in this situation that, seeing no means of immediate relief, I began to feel impatience; which, as I continued in a state of perfect inactivity, communicated the more rapidly its pernicious influence to my state of health. On the fourteenth day after my arrival, I was attacked with a violent fever, attended with extreme pain in the head. How long it lasted I cannot precisely say, having, on the second day, lost my recollection. It was afterwards recalled by the effect of a dysentery, which lasted for two days, and left me too weak to assist myself. I had reflection enough to know, that of the aliments there to be procured, scarcely any could be found that would not be pernicious. After the first attack, therefore, I confined myself to the use

of bark and water, which last I drank in great quantities.

" A little more than a month had elapsed, when, the symptoms appearing to diminish, I again pressed to be permitted to visit the residence of the Sultan. But I had reason to regret my impatience; for having at length obtained leave, I proceeded to El-Fasher, only to repeat my suffering. The rainy season was almost at an end, but the air, which still continued insalubrious, fatigue, and anxiety, renewed the malady, which, after extreme abstinence, and having gone through the short catalogue of remedies which I had had the precaution to take with me, I found unabated. Excessive headache, lassitude, thirst, occasional constipation, succeeded by extreme irritation of the viscera, continued for several months to show the ineffectual of my precautions, and to incapacitate me from all personal exertion. At length the heat of the ensuing summer, gradually increasing, and producing regular and continued transpiration, and the state of the air then meliorated, having removed the cause of indisposition, it was not long before I gained a certain degree of strength.

" Arrived at El-Fasher, I was first introduced to the Melek *Mifellim*, one of the principal ministers. This man, when young, had been a slave, and engaged in domestic offices of the palace, but having been detected using some familiarities with one of the women, the monarch had ordered him to be deprived of the ensigns of manhood. Ignorant and uneducated, he appeared to have a certain quickness of apprehension, which, together with uncommon gaiety of humour, had rendered him acceptable at court, where he appeared more as a buffoon than a minister of state. He received me with a rude stare as an object he was unused to, which was followed by a mingled smile of contempt and aversion. He was seated with some other of the royal attendants, under a kind of awning of cotton cloth, on a mat spread upon the sand. After the common salutations, the Melek and his company entered into conversation on the nature of my visit to the country; and each made his remarks on my person, and offered his conjectures as to my character and intentions.

" Their conversation was partly carried on in their vernacular idiom,

partly

'partly in Arabic. At length a wooden bowl of *polenta*, and another of dried meat, were set before them. My illness deprived me of all inclination to eat; and observing the company not much inclined to invite me to join them, and yet embarrassed how to avoid that ceremony, I relieved them by declining it, and desiring them to begin. When they were satiated, and they lose no time in eating, a great number of foolish questions were asked me about Europe, some of which I waved, and satisfied them as to others in the best manner I was able.'—
P. 191.

SINGULAR INCIDENT—AUDIENCE OF THE SULTAN.

"AFTER waiting in fruitless expectation at El-Fasher, as the time of my departure was drawing near, an accident happened, which, though not of the most pleasing kind, contributed to make me noticed, and obtained for me at length an interview with the Sultan.—The slaves of the house used frequently to collect round me, as if to examine a strange object—I joked occasionally with them, without any other view than that of momentary relaxation. One day, as I was reading in the hut, one of them, a girl about fifteen, came to the door of it, when, from a whim of the moment, I seized the cloth that was round her waist, which dropped, and left her naked. Chance so determined that the owner of the slave passed at the moment, and saw her. The publicity of the place precluded any view of farther familiarity, but the tumult which succeeded appeared to mark the most heinous of crimes, and to threaten the most exemplary vengeance. The man threw his turban on the earth, and exclaimed—'Ye believers in the Prophet, hear me! Ye faithful, avenge me!' with other similar expressions. 'A Caffre has violated the property of a descendant of Mohammed' (meaning himself, which was utterly false). When a number of people was collected around him, he related the sup-

posed injury he had received in the strongest terms, and exhorted them to take their arms and sacrifice the Caffre. He had charged a carbine, and affected to come forward to execute his threats, when some one of the company who had advanced farthest, and saw me, called out to the rest that I was armed, and prepared to resist.

"It was then agreed among the assembly that some method of punishment might be found that promised more security and profit to the complainant, and would be more formidable to the guilty. The man whom I have already mentioned as my broker was to take the slave, as if she had really been violated*, and agreed to pay whatever her master should charge as the price. The latter had the modesty to ask ten head of slaves. He was then to make his demand on me for the value of ten slaves, and if I carried the matter before the Cadi, which he supposed I should hardly venture to do, he had suborned witnesses to prove that I had received of him property to that amount.

"On my removal from Cobble to El-Fasher, I had caused my small remaining property, among which were few articles of value, but many of much use to me, to be lodged in the house of *Hossein* (the owner of the slave), and his companion. On my return thither, which happened within a few days after the accident, I claimed it: they resisted, as they alleged, at the suit of my broker, and would not deliver it till the value of ten slaves should be paid to him. I had from the first considered their conduct as so violent, that if it reached the ears of the government, the claim must unquestionably be abandoned; and indeed my adversaries had only rested their expectations on the timidity which they had been accustomed to observe in Christians of the country, whose accusation and condemnation are in fact the same. I had not neglected to give the transaction all the notoriety I could, without having recourse to public authority, and those to whom I had applied were

* "By the law of the Prophet, any illicit connexion with the female slave of another makes the person guilty responsible for her value to the owner. Thus the personal injury is expiated. The public offence of *zina* (whoredom) incurs a punishment varying according to the character and circumstances of the offender; but the positive testimony of four witnesses is necessary to establish this fact."

decidedly in my favour: I therefore now went to my adversaries, Hoffein and his companion, and in their presence offered to Ali Hamad a promissory note for the value of ten slaves, at the market price on my arrival in Kahira. It was refused; and my chest, in which were some German dollars and other articles, was still detained by them; the rest was given up.

" In the mean time much had been said on the subject, both among the natives and foreigners; and the flagrant injustice I was likely to suffer forcibly struck all that were not in a state to profit by it, but none more than the Egyptian merchants: they were indignant to see that so enormous a penalty should be forfeited to those who had no claim but effrontery to demand it; and that they had no share, and were too numerous to expect to be all rewarded for connivance; accordingly some of them were diligent in carrying the news to the monarch.

" I had indeed been told that the Sultan was apprized of the transaction previously to my departure from El-Father, and that he intended to grant me redress; but after waiting about fifteen days, without hearing any thing farther of his intentions, weary of suffering, I determined to return. I had been there but a short time when a *fulganawy* (messenger) arrived exprefs from the court, with orders for me to repair to El-Father immediately. The object of the message was kept in profound secrecy, nor could I discover whether it portended good or evil. I left Cobbe the same evening, and arrived at the end of my journey the following day, about noon.

" I repaired, as before, to the Melek Ibrahim, who, on the following day, introduced me at the public audience. The Sultan, as he retired to the palace, after it was over, ordered all the parties to appear. Being come within the inner court, he stopped the white mule on which he was mounted, and began a short harangue, addressing himself to Hoffein and Ali Hamad, my servant, in which he censured, in a rapid and energetic style, their conduct towards me. ' One,' said he, turning to Ali, ' calls himself Wakil of the Franks; if he were a sheriff and a mullah, as he pretends, he would know that the law of the Prophet permits not a mullah to be

Wakil to a Caffre: another calls himself his friend—but both are agreed in robbing him of his property, and usurping the authority of the laws. Henceforth I am his Wakil, and will protect him.' He then ordered all the parties to repair to the house of Muza Wullad Jeltün, Melek of the jelabs, under whose appropriate jurisdiction are all foreign merchants. Here it may not be improper to relate briefly how I had been before received by the Sultan.

" On my first audience I was too ill to make much observation: I was seated at a distance from him; the visit was short, and I had no opportunity of opening a conversation. He was placed on his seat (*carsi*) at the door of his tent. Some person had mentioned to him my watch, and a copy of Erpenius's Grammar, which I had with me. He asked to see both; but after casting his eyes on each he returned them. The present I had brought was shown him, for which he thanked me, and rose to retire.

" During the following summer, the first time I got admission to him, he was holding a diwan in the outer court. He was then mounted on a white mule, clothed with a scarlet *bemij*, and had on his head a white turban; which however, together with part of his face, was covered with a thick muslin. On his feet were yellow boots, and the saddle on which he was seated was of crimson velvet, without any ornament of gold or silver. His sword, which was broad and straight, and adorned with an hilt of mally gold, was held horizontally in his right hand. A small canopy of muslin was supported over his head. Amid the noise and hurry of above a thousand persons who were there assembled I was unable to make myself heard, which the nature of my situation obliged me to attempt, though not exactly conformable to the etiquette of the court, that, almost to the exclusion of strangers, had appropriated the diwan to the troops, the Arabs, and others connected with the government.

" On another occasion, I contrived to gain admittance to the interior court by a bribe. The Sultan was hearing a cause of a private nature, the proceedings on which were only in the Furián language. He was seated on a kind of chair, which was covered with a Turkey carpet, and wore a red

silk turban; his face was then uncovered: the Imperial sword was placed across his knees, and his hands were engaged with a chaplet of red coral. Being near him, I fixed my eyes on him, in order to have a perfect idea of his countenance, which, being short-sighted, and not thinking it very decent to use a glass in his presence, I had hitherto scarcely found an opportunity of acquiring. He seemed evidently discomposed at my having observed him thus, and the moment the cause was at an end he retired very abruptly. Some persons to whom I afterwards remarked the circumstance seemed to think that his attendants had taught him to fear the magic of the Franks, to the operation of which their habit of taking likenesses is imagined by some of the Orientals to conduce. He is a man rather under the middle size, of a complexion astut or dry, with eyes full of fire, and features abounding in expression. His beard is short but full, and his countenance, though perfectly black, materially differing from the negro; though fifty or fifty-five years of age, he possesses much alertness and activity.

"At another of my visits I found him in the interior court, standing, with a long staff tipped with silver in his right hand, on which he leaned, and the sword in his left. He then had chosen to adorn his head with the folds of a red silk turban, composed of the same material as the western Arabs use for a cincture. -The Melek Ibrahim presented him, in my name, with a small piece of silk and cotton, of the manufacture of Damascus. He returned answer, '*Balak ulla fi!*' — 'May the blessing of God be on him!' — a phrase in general use, on receiving any favour; and instantly retired, without giving me time to urge the request of which I intended the offering should be the precursor. It is expected of all persons that, on coming to El-Pather, they shou'd bring with them a present of greater or less value, according to the nature of the business in hand. It is no less usual, before leaving the royal residence, to ask permission of the Sultan for that purpose. With this latter form, which was to me unpleasant, I sometimes complied, but more frequently omitted it. But on this occasion, having been long resident there, I thought fit to make a last effort to promote my de-

sign. The day preceding that which I had fixed for my return happened to be a great public audience. I found the monarch seated on his throne (*chirib*), under a lofty canopy, composed not of one material, but of various stuffs of Syrian and even of Indian fabric, hung loosely on a light frame of wood, no two pieces of the same pattern. The place he sat in was spread with small Turkey carpets. The Meleks were seated at some distance on the right and left, and behind them a line of guards, with caps, ornamented in front with a small piece of copper and a black ostrich feather. Each bore a spear in his hand, and a target of the hide of the hippopotamus on the opposite arm. Their dress consisted only of a cotton shirt, of the manufacture of the country. Behind the throne were fourteen or fifteen eunuchs, clothed indeed splendidly in habiliments of cloth or silk, but clumsily adjusted, without any regard to size or colour. The space in front was filled with suitors and spectators, to the number of more than fifteen hundred. A kind of hired encomiast stood on the monarch's left hand, crying out, *a plain gorge*, during the whole ceremony, 'See the buffaloe, the offspring of a buffaloe, a bull of bulls, the elephant of superior strength, the powerful Sultan Abd-el-rachmân-el-rafîd! May God prolong thy life! — O master — may God assist thee, and render thee victorious!'

"From this audience, as from those which had preceded it, I was obliged to retire as I had come, without effecting my purpose. I was told there were occasions when the Sultan wears a kind of crown, as is common with other African monarchs; but of this practice I had no opportunity to bear testimony. When he appeared in public, a number of troops, armed with light spears, usually attended him, and several of his slaves were employed to bear a kind of umbrella over his head, which concealed his face from the multitude. When he passes, all the spectators are obliged to appear barefooted, and commonly to kneel — his subjects bow to the earth; but this compliance is not expected from foreigners. Even the Meleks, when they approach the throne, creep on their hands and knees, which gave occasion to an Egyptian to remark, that the *Jarea* (a female slave) in Für was a

Melek,

Melek, and the Melek a Zarea—aluding to the servile behaviour of the ministers, and the publicity of women in the domestic offices of the palace.

"The Sultan Abd-el-rachmân, soon after he became possessed of sovereign authority, with the ostensible motive of testifying his attachment to the religion of the Prophet, but more perhaps with a view of obtaining greater weight among his subjects, by some mark of the consideration of the first of Mohammedan princes, thought proper to send present to Constantinople: it consisted of three of the choicest eunuchs, and three of the most beautiful female slaves that could be procured. The Othman emperor, when they were presented, had, it is said, never heard of the Sultan of Dar-Fûr, but he returned an highly-ornamented sabre, a rich pelisse, and a ring set with a single diamond of no inconsiderable value." P. 209.

(To be continued.)

LV. *Travels through the United States of North America, the Country of the Iroquois, and Upper Canada, in the Years 1795, 1796, and 1797: with an authentic Account of Lower Canada.* By the DUKE DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULT LIANCOURT. 4to. pp. 642. With a Map of the United States, Canada, &c. 1l. 7s. Phillips, Houst.

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Shipping, &c.—North Carolina, Constitution, Taxes, Navigation, Climate, &c.—Speech of Lieutenant-governor Simcoe, upon proroguing the fifth Session of the Provincial Parliament of Upper Canada.

EXTRACT FROM THE TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

“THE character and predominant opinions of M. de Rochefoucauld Li-ancourt himself are, in this volume, very frankly and amply displayed. In his character, great native rectitude and benignity of disposition appear to be associated with some of the philosophical affectations of the new school, and with somewhat of that never-failing gallantry and politeness which used to mark the manners of the old French nobility.

“Although a victim to the revolution, he still approves those principles of political reform upon which the first movements toward it were made: though an outcast from France, he still takes a warm patriotic interest in the glory of the French nation: hence he inclines, at times, to encourage the milder class of those political sentiments which the sagacity of government finds it prudent to discourage in Britain, as little adapted to promote the general welfare; and whenever the views, the interests, and the public servants of the British government come to be mentioned, he usually speaks the language of a foreigner and a foe.

“Throughout the whole of his American journeys, there appears to have reigned in the mind of this illustrious exile a melancholy cast of imagination, with a peevish irritability of feeling, such as it was very natural for misfortunes like his to produce. Every scene of beneficent conduct from great landholders toward their dependants brings to his remembrance his own endeavours to enlighten and bless the peasantry upon those estates in France which once were his own. He shrinks in agony from the exultations with which British officers tell him of the ruin of the naval force of republican France. He complains of a dirty room, a hard bed, or a scanty meal, as if it were a grievous misfortune. He has a peculiar quick-

ness of eye at discovering sloth, knavery, and mischief, wherever he travels. The wounds which his spirit had suffered were still fresh or festering, and were, therefore, liable to be grievously inflamed and irritated by the slightest degree of new laceration.—He, not unfrequently, breaks forth into expressions of keen anguish, or more subdued and pensive sorrow, which, being the voice of nature and of truth, must prove to every reader inexpressibly interesting.” P. x.

EXTRACT.

MANNERS OF THE INDIANS.

“THE Indians seem to occupy themselves much with their children; they are extremely fond of them during their childhood, and their affectionate attachment frequently lasts far beyond that tender age. Sucking children are generally suspended in a basket, fastened to the ceiling by long ropes, and thus rocked. When the mother goes on a journey, or to work, the babe is put into a sort of portable cradle, the back and lower part of which are made of wood: it is laced before with straps of cloth, with which the child can be tied as fast as they please. This sort of cradle is carried by means of a strap, tied around the forehead of the mother. In this manner the Indians generally carry all their burdens.

“Few Indians live to be very old. They who grow old and infirm are put to death by their children, who consider this act as a duty they are bound to perform, in order to save their parents from the miseries of old age. However, they do not always fulfil this duty. Let this barbarous custom be fairly considered, and it will be found in some manner consistent with reason: for of what use and value is life, when nothing can be expected but sorrow and sufferings?

“Death is, with the Indians, no object of terror; and the relations of the deceased grieve but little for their loss. Some howlings at the burial are the only signs or expressions of their grief, while several days before and after the interment are spent in feasting and dancing. The entire property of the deceased is frequently spent in thus eating, drinking, and rioting, to his honour.”

“The

" The imperfect civilization, which the Indian nations we have seen owe to their constant intercourse with white people, has altered their original manners, which it would be peculiarly interesting to observe. Whisky renders them stupid; and whisky is known and sought after by all the Indians, who are engaged in the fur trade with white people. Europe has inflicted, and will ever inflict, so many evils on every country discovered by her, that it is necessary to travel as Mr. Mackenzie has done, beyond the known tribes, in order to trace the original manners of the Indian nations; yet Mr. Mackenzie himself distributed whisky as he went along.

" I shall subjoin here a few observations concerning the Indians, which, though they may not be perfectly new, will yet form a sketch not altogether uninteresting to Europeans, and which I shall be able to improve from other accounts, especially from the narrative of the captivity of one of my friends belonging to Virginia. But previously to my entering on this subject, I must observe, that all the Indians we saw used every means of showing us particular kindness, on account of our being Frenchmen, whom they told us they love very much, knowing that their people have always been kindly treated by them, and particularly without any sort of contemptuous insolence. On this account they constantly called us their fathers.

" Age is so much honoured by the Indians, that in their language age and wisdom are synonymous terms.

" Notwithstanding this high estimation, in which old age is every where held, and the great respect enjoyed by their chieftains in time of peace, and by their leaders in time of war, health, dexterity, and courage alone obtain distinctions among the Indians. Although from disposition and habit they are independent of each other in all the concerns of life, yet they are never wanting in obedience to their chiefs and leaders.

" Hospitality is with them a duty which it would be a crime not to observe, and which they never fail to practise. They consider revenge as a duty equally sacred. They conceal their vindictive views as long as they know they cannot be gratified: but

neither the longest period of time, nor the greatest obstacles, ever stifle in them the imperious passion for revenge. Although theft is very common among them, and more so among the women than the men, yet the thief, caught in the fact, is compelled to restore the property he stole; and in case of a violent robbery, the conjurors are consulted, who condemn the robber to death.

" Homicide is atoned for by a sum of money, the amount of which is paid in a sort of thells, called *wampum*, by which the price of all commodities is measured and adjusted. An offender who cannot raise this ransom is delivered over to the family of the deceased, that they may take their revenge on him. Deliberate murder is seldom committed; manslaughter, perpetrated in drunken quarrels, is more frequent. Yet the same indulgence, in regard to homicide and theft, is not shown by all the Indian nations. I have learnt from Colonel Brant, chief-tain of the Mohawks, that among the Six Nations, who still occupy lands near the lakes in the dominion of the United States, and in Canada, and to whom the Mohawks and Seneca Indians belong, every Indian who has killed or robbed another, must inevitably suffer death. The murderer is generally put to death by the relations of the person murdered. But every Indian belonging to the nation has a right to kill him as soon as the crime is known. It frequently happens that the offender, far from making the least resistance, voluntarily surrenders himself up for execution.

" Among some nations, the wife takes revenge of an unfaithful husband by a similar conduct on her own part; and the husband, in the same circumstances, has recourse to the same means of revenge. Among some, the husband puts the wife to death, if he catch her *in flagranti delicto*. The greatest crime among the Indians is to touch a captive, even with her consent. This crime would be punished with instant death. I know from Colonel Brant, that among the Six Nations there has yet been no instance of such an offence. As soon as the captive is set at liberty, there exists no farther prohibition, in case she consents. As they can neither read nor write, and yet are desirous of transmitting the memory of their actions to poster-

posturity, especially the fortunate exploits of their tribes, they effect this purpose by cutting figures in the bark of trees, which, to those who are unacquainted with this sort of language, appear to have no form, but are very intelligible to them and their posterity, as long as they are spared by all-destroying time. It is in this manner they record their exploits in hunting and war, the number of the scalps they have torn from the skulls of their enemies, &c. The wampum, which is their money, is also their ornament, and their pledge for the performance of every contract and oath. They are more or less skilled in casting up accounts, in proportion to the extent of their trade. They count their months and days by the moon and the night, and their years by summer and winter. The pole-star, with which they are acquainted, guides them in their nocturnal journeys.

"The customs of the Indians, with respect to marriage, are various. In some tribes the children are given in marriage by their parents; in others they make their own choice. Among some polygamy is permitted; with others it is not in use. In some tribes the infidelity of the wives causes not the least uneasiness to the husband; in others it afflicts them to such a degree, that they frequently poison themselves; an act of despair, which is also sometimes committed by women from the same motives. Marriage, however, is in general with them but a transitory union. Divorces are very frequent; and in this case the children remain with the wife, together with all the other property. Conversion seldom or never takes place between the husband and wife: the Indians in general speak little. The wife, when she returns home from hard labour, prepares food for her husband, twice or thrice a day, who is ever satisfied with what she gives him. If no meal be prepared, the husband goes away without complaining, and eats with one of his neighbours.

"Their usual diseases are inflammatory and putrid fevers, and the small-pox: the last never attacks them, but when they are near the habitations of white people, to the care of whose physicians they commit themselves with a tolerable share of confidence. If there be no medical per-

sions in the neighbourhood, they place equal confidence in their conjurors, who are often women. The remedies which the conjurors apply, consist generally of the insipidated juices of herbs: they also often cause the patient to be put into a kind of oven, or vapour-bath, to bring on a violent perspiration, which is the most common cure. These vapour baths are made by means of large stones, heated as much as possible, and arranged in the form of a circle, in the centre of which the patient is placed. Over this small enclosure is spread a very low tent cover, made of wool; the red-hot stones are wetted with water, and when the patient, by means of this steam, is in a strong perspiration, he is suddenly emerged into the coldest brook. This remedy is repeated several times, and proves often salutary in pleurisies and colds. But never is any remedy applied without some concomitant mysterious ceremony; such as blowing upon the patient, dancing, howling, or beating the drum. Whenever they apply a remedy, or practise their art, they invoke the Great Spirit, to whom, they say, they are called in their sleep. Pains in the head, and in the muscles of the neck, are very common among the women. They are attributed to the manner in which they carry their burdens.

"The bite of the rattlesnake is easily cured, the remedy being known to all the Indians, and usually applied. I have already mentioned, that it is the rattlesnake root (*polygala senega*, Linn.). The bruised leaves are applied to the wound, and the juice, extracted from the root, is taken with a little butter or fat. There are, however, several other remedies against this accident, which no Indian regards. The flesh of the snake is considered as a delicacy by the Indians, and the slough, which the snake casts off twice a year, beaten into powder, is used as a cleanser of the blood.

"The language of the Indians, in their conferences, is always figurative. When, for instance, they wish to describe the restoration of peace between two nations, they express themselves as follows: 'We are making a road five hundred miles in length through the forest; we are tearing up the roots and branches that obstruct the way; we are clearing it of stones,

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rocks, and trees; we are removing the hills; we cover it with sand, and make it to perfectly light, that all the nations can see each other without the least obstruction.' - Although they conduct themselves with great coolness in all their dealings, yet they often grow warm in the delivery of their speeches, and then swell declamation into musical notes: the assembly listens in profound silence. The members of the council smoke their pipes all the while; and the orator, when he has done, sits down with them, and does the same. Their speeches may be as long as they please; they are never interrupted; since to interrupt an Indian would be deemed the greatest offence. In their deputations, their reception of ambassadors, and their negotiation of treaties, they introduce much solemnity and many ceremonies.

"When one nation wages war against another, they resolve on so doing after due deliberation, but never declare war against their enemy. They come upon him in greater or smaller numbers, and kill and destroy every thing within their reach. Whenever they meet with single individuals, who belong to the hostile nation, they treat them in the same manner. There are, however, places of inviolability, where their hostilities are suspended. Such is a certain spot on the banks of the river Missouri, where a species of stone is found, of which they stand in particular need, for making pipes. Here the bitterest enemies work quietly near one another, in breaking these stones, which they all alike want. There are more such places, equally sacred; and no instance has ever happened of these places having become a scene of contention.

"Peace cannot be concluded between two nations, but through the intervention of a neutral tribe; and until it be actually concluded, the contending parties continue to destroy each other. As soon as the words of peace are proclaimed by the neutral nation, the ambassadors of the tribes at war meet and agree upon the *ceasation of hostilities*. No other conditions are ever made. The proposals are reported by the ambassadors to the different councils of their respective nations. All the chieftains now assemble, smoke the calumet of peace, present each other with belts of wampum, and peace is definitively concluded. They do not

give up the prisoners they have made, who remain where they are in a state of slavery.

"When the Indians are at war with the white people, in which generally several nations join, the negotiations for peace are usually opened by messengers, deputed by the latter, who are frequently murdered by the former. This happened in the last war with the Americans. General Wayne, at the beginning of the year 1794, sent three officers, attended by three interpreters, to different nations, which had taken a position in front of his army; the six persons, who carried the American flag, were all killed. After the battle which took place in August following, near Lake Erie, and in which the Indians were defeated, General Wayne, instead of putting the prisoners to the sword, ordered them to be well treated, and sent several of them back with propositions of peace. The Indians being dispirited by their defeat, as well as by the faintness of the assistance afforded them by the English, who had excited them to the war, were glad to get their prisoners back, yielded to the general with as well as necessity of living at peace, and consented that negotiations should be opened. Eleven nations had been at war with the Americans; ambassadors for the eleven nations arrived; and the negotiations lasted three months.

"As soon as the point has been agreed upon, that negotiations for peace shall be opened, the Indians consider peace as actually concluded, and for this reason they bring the calumet of peace into the first assembly, which is always very numerous; it is presented by one of the chieftains, and every one present smokes it. To wipe the end of the pipe would be a great affront to an Indian, and might even lead to the rupture of the negotiation. The subsequent assemblies are less numerous. They are composed of about three or four deputies of each nation, attended by interpreters; for all the nations speak different dialects. The speeches of the Indians are very long, and, at times, last three hours. They are listened to, as I have already observed, with the utmost attention. Their remarks and answers are often extremely pertinent and acute. The orators frequently mark down with wampum the leading points of their speeches, in a manner scarcely intelligible

ligible to any one but themselves. By a similar arrangement of their wampum, the young Indians, who assist at the principal deliberation, report to the council of their nation not only all the proposals which have been made, but, in general, every thing that has been said.

"The negotiations being brought to a close, the articles agreed upon are written on a long piece of parchment, comprising every thing that relates to every different nation concerned in the peace. These parchments are signed by all the chieftains of the nations, who, for the most part, use as their signature a mishapen image of the animal which forms the distinctive mark of the tribe. One of these parchments, thus signed, remains in the hands of the white nation, and the other is delivered to one of the Indian nations concerned, which is most numerous, and from which the rest receive copies of the treaty in wampum. Every thing being terminated, presents are made, and the calumet is smoked by way of conclusion.

General Wayne, from whom I learned these particulars, allows that the Indians possess an excellent disposition, with much sound understanding and judgment. In the battle which decided the issue of the war, they displayed the most obstinate valour, bordering on blood-thirsty ferocity. They even executed bold and tolerably skilful manœuvres, which, though they had undoubtedly been contrived and indicated to them by English officers, nevertheless did them infinite credit.

"The Indians, giving a hospitable reception to travellers, make them smoke the tomahawk, as they ratify a peace by smoking the calumet with their former enemies. They generally smoke a very pleasant tobacco, which is rendered still milder by a mixture of the bruised leaves of fragrant plants, and especially of sumach.

"Let it, however, be remembered, that these general remarks on the manners of the Indians admit of many modifications in regard to single tribes and individuals. I have collected them here, rather with a view of gratifying, as far as I am able, the eager curiosity of my European friends, than with an intention of presenting them with a complete delineation of Indian manners, such as could satisfy myself. Yet I can at least offer this picture as faith-

ful, if imperfect, though it be not drawn from my own immediate observation." P. 177.

(To be concluded in our next.)

LVI. *Asiatic Researches; or Transactions of the Society instituted in Bengal, for inquiring into the History and Antiquities, the Arts, Sciences, and Literature of Asia.* Vol. V. 8vo. 10s. 6d. 4to. 1l. 1s. pp. 428 each. *Sewell, Vernor and Hood.*

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respecting the useful Purposes to which it may be applied.—XIV. A botanical Description of the Urceola Elastica, or Caout Choue Vine, of Sumatra and Pulo-Penang.—XV. Some Account of the astronomical Labours of Jayasinha, Rajah of Ambhera, or Jayanagar.—XVI. Description of a Species of Meloë, an Insect of the ist, or Coleopterous Order in the Linnean System, found in all Parts of Bengal, Behar, and Oude; and possessing all the Properties of the Spanish blistering Fly, or Meloë Veneficatorius.—XVII. A Comparative Vocabulary of some of the Languages spoken in the Burma Empire.—XVIII. On the Chronology of the Hindus.—XIX. Remarks on the Names of Cabirian Deities, and on some Words used in the Mysteries of Eleusis.—XX. Account of a Pagoda at Perwuttum.—XXI. Remarks on the principal Eras and Dates of the ancient Hindus.—XXII. On the religious Ceremonies of the Hindus, and of the Brâhmens especially.—XXIII. The Rudhirâdhyâya, or Sanguinary Chapter, translated from the Calica-puran.—XXIV. An Account of the Pearl Fishery, in the Gulf of Manar, in March and April 1797.—XXV. Astronomical Observations made in the upper Provinces of Hindustan.

EXTRACTS.

ACCOUNT OF THE ELASTIC GUM VINE, OF PRINCE OF WALES'S ISLAND, BY JAMES HOWISON, ESQ.

"OUR first knowledge of the plant being a native of our island, arose from the following accident: in our excursions into the forests, it was found necessary to carry cutlasses, for the purpose of clearing our way through the underwood. In one of those an elastic gum vine had been divided, the milk of which drying upon the blade, we were much surprised in finding it possessed all the properties of the American *cavie-choue*. The vine, which produces this milk, is generally about the thickness of the arm, and almost round, with a strong ash-coloured bark, much cracked, and divided longitudinally; has joints at a small dis-

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tance from each other, which often send out roots, but seldom branches; runs upon the ground to a great length; at last rises upon the highest trees into the open air. It is found in the greatest plenty at the foot of the mountains, upon a red clay mixed with sand, in situations completely shaded, and where the mercury in the thermometer will seldom exceed summer heat.

"In my numerous attempts to trace this vine to its top, I never succeeded; for, after following it in its different windings, sometimes to a distance of two hundred paces, I lost it, from its ascending among the branches of trees that were inaccessible, either from their size or height. On the west coast of Sumatra, I understand they have been more successful; Doctor Roxburgh having procured from thence a specimen of the vine in flowers, from which he has classed it; but whose description I have not yet seen.

"With us, the Malays have found tasing of the milk the best mode of discriminating between the elastic gum vine and those which resemble it in giving out a milky juice, of which we have a great variety; the liquid from the former being much less pungent or corrosive than that obtained from the latter.

"The usual method of drawing off the milk is by wounding the bark deeply, in different places, from which it runs but slowly, it being full employment for one person to collect a quart in the course of two days. A much more expeditious mode, but ruinous to the vine, is cutting it in lengths of two feet, and placing under both ends vessels to receive the milk. The best is always procured from the oldest vines. From them it is often obtained in a consistence equal to thick cream, and which will yield two thirds of its own weight in gum.

"The chemical properties of this vegetable milk, so far as I have had an opportunity of examining, surprisingly resemble those of animal milk. From its decomposition in consequence of spontaneous fermentation, or by the addition of acids, a separation takes place between its *caseous* and ferous parts, both of which are very similar to those produced by the same processes from animal milk. An oily or butyrous matter is also one of its component parts, which appears upon the surface of the gum so soon as the latter has

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attained

attained its solid form. The presence of this considerably impeded the progress of my experiments, as will be seen hereafter.

" I was at some trouble in endeavouring to form an extract of this milk so as to approach to the consistence of new butter, by which I hoped to retard its fermentative stage, without depriving it of its useful qualities; but as I had no apparatus for distilling, the surface of the milk, that was exposed to the air, instantly formed into a solid coat, by which the evaporation was in a great degree prevented. I, however, learned, by collecting the thickened milk from the inside of the coats, and depositing it in a jelly-pot, that, if excluded from the air, it might be preserved in this state for a considerable length of time.

" I have kept it in bottles, without any preparation, tolerably good, upwards of one year; for, notwithstanding the fermentation soon takes place, the decomposition in consequence is only partial; and what remains fluid, still retains its original properties, although considerably diminished.

" Not having seen M. Fourcroy's memoir on *cavot-chouc*, I could not make trials of the methods proposed by him for preserving the milk unaltered.

" In making boots, gloves, and bottles, of the elastic gum, I found the following method the best: I first made moulds of wax, as nearly of the size and shape of what they represented as possible; these I hung separately upon pins, about a foot from the ground, by pieces of cord wrought into the wax: I then placed under each a saucer-like plate, into which I poured as much of the milk as I thought would be sufficient for one coat. Having dipped my fingers in this, I completely covered the moulds one after another, and what dropped into the plate was used as part of the next coat: the first I generally found sufficiently dry in the space of ten minutes, when exposed to the sun, to admit of a second being applied: however, after every second coat, the oily matter before mentioned was in such quantity upon the surface, that, until washed off with soap and water, I found it impossible to apply any more milk with effect; for, if laid on, it kept running and dividing like water upon wax.

" Thirty coats I in common found sufficient to give a covering of the thickness of the bottles which come from America. This circumstance may, however, at any time be ascertained, by introducing the finger between the mould and gum, the one very readily separating from the other.

" I found the fingers preferable to a brush, or any instrument whatever, for laying on the milk; for the moment a brush was wet with that fluid, the hair became united as one mass. A mode which at first view would appear to have the advantage of all others for ease and expedition in covering clay and wax moulds with the gum, viz. immersing them in the milk, did not at all answer upon trial; that fluid running almost entirely off, although none of the oily matter was present; a certain degree of force seeming necessary to incorporate by friction the milk with the new formed gum.

" When, upon examination, I found that the boots and gloves were of the thickness wanted, I turned them over at the top, and drew them off, as if from the leg or hand, by which I saved the trouble of forming new moulds. Those of the bottles being smallest at the neck, I was under the necessity of dissolving in hot water.

" The inside of the boots and gloves which had been in contact with the wax, being by far the smoothest, I made the outside. The gloves were now finished, unless cutting their tops even, which was best done with scissars. The boots, however, in their present state, more resembled stockings, having as yet no soles. To supply them with these, I poured upon a piece of gunny a proper quantity of milk, to give it a thick coat of gum. From this, when dry, I cut pieces sufficiently large to cover the sole of the foot, which, having met with the milk, I applied; first replacing the boot upon the mould to keep it properly extended. By this mode the soles were so firmly joined, that no force could afterwards separate them. In the same manner I added heels and straps, when the boots had a very neat appearance. To satisfy myself as to their impermeability to water, I stood in a pond up to their tops for the space of fifteen minutes, when, upon pulling them off, I did not find my stockings in the least damp. Indeed, from the nature of the gum, had

had it been for a period of as many months, the same result was to have been expected.

" After being thus far successful, I was greatly disappointed in my expectations with regard to their retaining their original shape; for, on wearing them but a few times, they lost much of their first neatness, the contractions of the gum being only equal to about seven eighths of its extension.

" A second disadvantage arose, from a circumstance difficult to guard against, which was, that if, by any accident, the gum should be in the smallest degree weaker in one place than another, the effect of extension fell almost entirely on that part, and the consequence was, that it soon gave way.

" From what I had observed of the advantage gained in substance and uniformity of strength, by making use of gunny as a basis for the soles, I was led to suppose, that if an elastic cloth, in some degree correspondent to the elasticity of the gum, were used for boots, stockings, gloves, and other articles, where that property was necessary, that the defects above mentioned might in a great measure be remedied. I accordingly made my first experiment with *Coffimbazar* stockings and gloves.

" Having drawn them upon the wax moulds, I plunged them into vessels containing the milk, which the cloth greedily absorbed. When taken out, they were so completely distended with the gum in solution, that, upon becoming dry by exposure to the air, not only every thread, but every fibre of the cotton had its own distinct envelope, and in consequence was equally capable of resisting the action of foreign bodies as if of solid gum.

" The first coat by this method was of such thickness, that for stockings or gloves nothing farther was necessary. What were intended for boots required a few more applications of milk with the fingers, and were finished as those made with the gum only.

" This mode of giving cloth as a basis, I found to be a very great improvement: for, besides the addition of strength received by the gum, the operation was much shortened.

" Woven substances, that are to be covered with the gum, as also the moulds on which they are to be placed, ought to be considerably larger than the bodies they are afterwards intend-

ed to fit; for, being much contracted from the absorption of the milk, little alteration takes place in this diminution in size, even when dry, as about one-third only of the fluid evaporates before the gum acquires its solid form.

" Great attention must be paid to prevent one part of the gum coming in contact with another while wet with the milk or its whey; for the instant that takes place, they become inseparably united. But should we ever succeed in having large plantations of our own vine, or in transferring the American tree (which is perhaps more productive) to our possessions, so that milk could be procured in sufficient quantity for the covering various cloths, which should be done on the spot, and afterwards exported to Europe, then the advantages attending this singular property of the milk would for ever balance its disadvantages: cloths, and coverings of different descriptions, might then be made from this gum cloth, with an expedition so much greater than by the needle, that would at first appear very surprising: the edges of the separate pieces only requiring to be wet with the milk, or its whey, and brought into contact, when the article would be finished, and fit for use. Should both milk and whey be wanting, a solution of the gum in either can always be obtained, by which the same end would be accomplished.

" Of all the cloths upon which I made experiments, nankin, from the strength and quality of its fabric, appeared the best calculated for coating with the gum. The method I followed in performing this, was, to lay the cloth smooth upon the table, pour the milk upon it, and with a ruler to spread it equally. But should this ever be attempted on a larger scale, I would recommend the following plan: To have a cistern for holding the milk a little broader than the cloth, to be covered with a cross bar in the centre, which must reach under the surface of the milk, and two rollers at one end. Having filled the cistern, one end of the piece of cloth is to be passed under the bar, and through between the rollers; the former keeping the cloth immersed in the milk, the latter in pressing out what is superfluous, so that none may be lost. The cloth can be hung up at full length to dry; and the operation repeated until of whatever thickness wanted. For the reasons above,

above-mentioned, care must be taken that one fold does not come in contact with another while wet.

" Having observed that most of the patent catheters and bougies made with a solution of the elastic gum, whether in ether or in the essential oils, had either a disagreeable stickiness, or were too hard to admit of any advantage being derived from the elasticity of the gum, I was induced to make some experiments with the milk towards removing these objections.

" From that fluid, by evaporation, I made several large-sized bougies of pure gum, which, from their overflexibility, were totally useless. I then took some slips of fine cloth covered with the gum, which I rolled up until of a proper size, and which I rendered solid by soaking them in the milk, and then drying them. These possessed more firmness than the former, but in no degree sufficient for the purpose intended. Pieces of strong catgut, coated with the gum, I found to answer better than either.

" Besides an effectual clothing for manufacturers employed with the mineral acids, which had been long a desideratum, this substance, under different modifications, might be applied to a number of other useful purposes in life; such as making hats, great coats, boots, &c. for sailors, soldiers, fishermen, and every other description of persons who, from their pursuits, are exposed to wet stockings; for invalids, who suffer from damps; bathing-caps, tents, coverings for carriages of all kinds, for roofs of houses, trunks, buoys, &c.

" This extraordinary vegetable production, in place of being injured by water, at its usual temperature *, is preserved by it. For a knowledge of this circumstance I am indebted to the Chinese. Having some years ago communicated articles made of the elastic gum from China, I received them in a small jar, filled up with water, in which state I have since kept them without observing any signs of decay.

" Should it ever be deemed an object to attempt plantations of the elastic gum vine in Bengal, I would recom-

mend the foot of the Chittagong, Rajmahal, and Bauglipore hills, as situations where there is every probability of succeeding, being very similar in soil and climate to the places of its growth on Prince of Wales's Island. It would, however, be advisable to make the first trial at this settlement, to learn in what way the propagation of the plant might be most successfully conducted. A further experience may also be necessary, to ascertain the season when the milk can be procured of the best quality, and in the greatest quantity, with the least detriment to the vine." P. 157.

PEARL FISHERY AT CEYLON.

" THE diving, both at Ceylon and at Tutucorin, is not attended with so many difficulties as authors imagine. The divers, consisting of different castes and religions (though chiefly of Pararawer † and Muffelmanns), neither make their bodies smooth with oil, nor do they stop their ears, mouths, or noses with any thing, to prevent the entrance of salt water. They are ignorant of the utility of diving-bells, bladders, and double flexible pipes. According to the injunctions of the shark conjurer they use no food while at work, nor till they return on shore, and have bathed themselves in fresh water. These Indians, accustomed to dive from their earliest infancy, fearlessly descend to the bottom, in a depth of from five to ten fathoms, in search of treasures. By two cords a diving stone and a net are connected with the boat. The diver, putting the toes of his right foot on the hair rope of the diving stone, and those of his left on the net, seizes the two cords with one hand, and shutting his nostrils with the other, plunges into the water. On reaching the bottom, he hangs the net round his neck, and collects into it the pearl shells as fast as possible, during the time he finds himself able to remain under water, which usually is about two minutes. He then resumes his former posture, and making a signal, by pulling the cords, he is immediately lifted into the boat. On emerging from the

* " From an account of experiments made with the elastic gum by M. Grossart, inserted in the *Annales de Chimie* for 1792, it appears, that water, when boiling, has a power of partially dissolving the gum, so as to render one part capable of being finally joined to another by pressure only."

† " Fishermen of the Catholic religion."

sea, he discharges a quantity of water from his mouth and nose, and those who have not been long inured to diving, frequently discharge some blood; but this does not prevent them from diving again in their turn. When the first five divers come up and are respiring, the other five are going down with the same stones. Each brings up about one hundred oysters in his net, and if not interrupted by any accident, may make fifty trips in a forenoon. They and the boat's crew get generally from the owner, instead of money, a fourth of the quantity which they bring on shore; but some are paid in cash, according to agreement.

"The most skilful divers come from Colliish, on the coast of Malabar; some of them are so much exercised in the art, as to be able to perform it without the assistance of the usual weight; and for a handsome reward will remain under water for the space of seven minutes; this I saw performed by a Caffry boy, belonging to a citizen at Karical, who had often frequented the fisheries of these banks. Though Dr. Halley deems this impossible, daily experience convinces us, that by long practice any man may bring himself to remain under water above a couple of minutes. How much the inhabitants of the South Sea Islands distinguish themselves in diving we learn from several accounts; and who will not be surprised at the wonderful Sicilian diver *Nicholas*, surnamed the *Fifib**?

"Every one of the divers, and even the most expert, entertain a great dread of the sharks, and will not, on any account, descend until the conjurer has performed his ceremonies. This prejudice is so deeply rooted in their minds, that the government was obliged to keep two such conjurers always in their pay, to remove the fears of their divers. Thirteen of these men were now at the fishery, from Ceylon and the coast, to profit by the superstitious folly of these deluded people. They are called in Tamul, *Pillal Kadtar*, which signifies one who binds the sharks, and prevents them from doing mischief.

"The manner of enchanting consists in a number of prayers learned by

heart, that nobody, probably not even the conjurer himself, understands, which he, standing on the shore, continues muttering and grumbling from sun-rise until the boats return; during this period, they are obliged to abstain from food and sleep, otherwise their prayers would have no avail; they are, however, allowed to drink, which privilege they indulge in a high degree, and are frequently so giddy, as to be rendered very unfit for devotion. Some of the conjurers accompany the divers in their boats, which pleases them very much, as they have their protectors near at hand. Nevertheless, I was told, that in one of the preceding fisheries, a diver lost his leg by a shark, and when the head conjurer was called to an account for the accident, he replied, that an old witch had just come from the coast, who, from envy and malice, had caused this disaster, by a counter-conjuration, which made fruitless his skill, and of which he was informed too late; but he afterwards showed his superiority by enchanting the poor sharks so effectually, that though they appeared in the midst of the divers, they were unable to open their mouths. During my stay at Condatchey, no accident of this kind happened. If a shark is seen, the divers immediately make a signal, which on perceiving, all the boats return instantly. A diver who trod upon a hammer oyster, and was somewhat wounded, thought he was bit by a shark, consequently made the usual signal, which caused many boats to return; for which mistake he was afterwards punished.

"The owners of the boats † sometimes sell their oysters, and at other times open them on their own account. In the latter case, some put them on mats, in a square, surrounded with a fence; others dig holes of almost a foot deep, and throw them in till the animal dies; after which they open the shells and take out the pearls with more ease. Even these squares and holes are sold by auction after the fishery is finished, as pearls often remain there, mixed with the sand.

"In spite of every care, tricks in picking out the pearls from the oysters

* See an account of him in M. Epitome, vol. ii. p. 96.—ED.

† "These are the individuals which farm one or more boats from the renter; and though they are in possession of them only during the fishery, they are commonly called the owners of the boats."

can hardly be prevented. In this the natives are extremely dexterous. The following is one mode they put in practice to effect their purpose: when a boat owner employs a number of hired people to collect pearls, he places over them an inspector of his own, in whom he can confide; these hirelings previously agree that one of them shall play the part of a thief, and bear the punishment, to give his comrades an opportunity of pilfering. If one of the gang happens to meet with a large pearl, he makes a sign to his accomplice, who instantly conveys away one of small value, purposely in such a manner as to attract notice: on this, the inspector and the rest of the men take the pearl from him; he is then punished, and turned out of their company. In the mean time, while he is making a dreadful uproar, the real thief secures the valuable pearl, and afterwards the booty is shared with him who suffered for them all. Besides tricks like these, the boat-owners and purchasers often lose many of the best pearls, while the dony is returning from the bank; for, as long as the animal is alive and untouched, the shells are frequently open near an inch; and if any of them contain a large pearl, it is easily discovered and taken out by means of a small piece of stiff grail, or bit of stick, without hurting the pearl-fish. In this practice they are extremely expert. Some of them were discovered whilst I was there, and received their due punishment.

Gmelin asks, if the animal of the *mytilus marginatus* is an *ascidia*. See Linn. Syst. Nat. tom. i. p. vi. 5350. This induces me to believe that it has never yet been accurately described: it does not resemble the *ascidia* of Linnaeus, and may, perhaps, form a new genus. It is fastened to the upper and lower shells by two white flat pieces of muscular substance, which

* "Vide Houtt. Nat. Hist. vol. i. p. xv. p. 381, seq."

† "The depth at which the pearl-fish generally is to be found, hindered me from paying any attention to the locomotive power, which I have not the least doubt it possesses, using for this purpose its tongue. This conjecture is strengthened by the accurate observations made on *muscles* by the celebrated Reaumur, in which he found that this body serves them as a leg or arm, to move from one place to another. Though the divers are very ignorant with regard to the economy of the pearl-fish, this changing of habitation has been long since observed by them. They alledge, that it alters its abode when disturbed by an enemy or in search of food. In the former case, they say it commonly descends from the summit of the bank to its declivity."

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is more than three quarters of an inch, without the cleft (*rima*); but if the animal is disturbed, it contracts it considerably. The top of each of these threads terminates in a circular gland or head, like the *sygma* of many plants. With this *bifurcatus* they fasten themselves to rocks, corals, and other solid bodies; by it the young pearl-fish cling to the old ones, and with it the animal procures its food, by extending and contracting it at pleasure. Small shell-fish, on which they partly live, are often found clinging to the former. The stomach lies close to the root of the beard, and has, on its lower side, a protracted obtuse point. Above the stomach are two small red bodies, like lungs; and from the stomach goes a long channel, or gut, which takes a circuit round the muscular column above mentioned, and ends in the anus, which lies opposite to the mouth, and is covered with a small thin leaf, like a flap. Though the natives pretend to distinguish the sexes by the appearance of the shell, I could not find any genitalia. The large flat ones they call males, and those that are thick, concave, and vaulted, they call females, or *pedoo-chippy*; but, on a close inspection, I could not observe any visible sexual difference.

It is remarkable that some of these animals are as red as blood, and that the inside of the shell has the same colour, with the usual pearly lustre, though my servants found a reddish pearl in an oyster of this colour; yet such an event is very rare. The diver attributes this redness to the sickness of the pearl-fish; though it is most probable that they had it from their first existence. In the shade they will live twenty-four hours after being taken out of the water. This animal is eaten by the lower class of Indians, either fresh in their curries, or cured by drying; in which state they are exported to the coast; though I do not think them by any means palatable.

"Within a mother-of-pearl shell I found thirteen *murices nudati* (vide Chemnitz's New System, Cabr. vol. xi. tab. 192, f. 1851 and 1852), the largest of which was three quarters of an inch long; but as many of them were putrid, and the pearl-fish itself dead, I could not ascertain whether

they had crept in as enemies, or were drawn in by the animal itself. At any rate, turtles and crabs are inimical to the animals, and a small living crab was found in one of them.

"The pearls are only in the softer part of the animal, and never in that firm muscular column above mentioned. We find them in general near the earth, and on both sides of the mouth. The natives entertain the same foolish opinion concerning the formation of the pearl which the ancients did. They suppose them formed from dew-drops in connexion with sun-beams. A Brâhmen informed me, that it was recorded in one of his Sanscrit books, that the pearls are formed in the month of May at the appearance of the *Socatee* star (one of their twenty-seven constellations), when the oysters come up to the surface of the water, to catch the drops of rain. One of the most celebrated conchologists* supposes that the pearl is formed by the oyster, in order to defend itself from the attacks of the *pholades* and *boreworms*. But we may be assured that in this supposition he is mistaken; for although these animals often penetrate the outer layers of the pearl-shell, and there occasion hollow nodes, yet, on examination, it will be found that they are never able to pierce the firm layer, with which the inside of the shell is lined. How can the pearls be formed as a defence against exterior worms, when, even on shells that contain them, no worm-holes are to be seen? It is, therefore, more probable these worms take up their habitations in the nodes, in order to protect themselves from the attacks of an enemy, than that they are capable of preying on an animal, so well defended as the pearl-fish is. It is unnecessary to repeat the various opinions and hypotheses of other modern authors; it is much easier to criticize them than to substitute in their place a more rational theory. That of Reaumur, mentioned in the Memoirs of the French Academy for 1712, is the most probable, viz. that the pearls are formed like bezoars and other stones, in different animals, and are apparently the effects of a disease. In short, it is very evident, that the pearl is formed by an extravasation of a glutinous juice either within the body, or on

* "The Rev. Mr. Chemnitz, at Copenhagen."

the surface of the animal: the former case is the most common. Between one and two hundred pearls have been found within one oyster. Such extravasations may be caused by heterogeneous bodies, such as sand, coming in with the food, which the animal, to prevent disagreeable friction, covers with its glutinous matter, and which, as it is successively secreted, forms many regular lamellæ, in the manner of the coats of an onion, or like different strata of bezoars, only much thinner: this is probable, for if we cut through the centre of a pearl, we often find a foreign particle, which ought to be considered as the nucleus or primary cause of its formation. The loose pearls may originally have been produced within the body, and, on their increase, may have separated and fallen into the cavity of the shell. Those compact ones, fixed to the shells, seem to be produced by similar extravasation, occasioned by the friction of some roughnesses on the inside of the shell. These, and the pearl-like nodes, have a different aspect from the pearls, and are of a darker and bluer colour. In one of the former I found a pretty large, true oval pearl, of a very clear water; while the node itself was of a dark blueish colour. The yellow or gold-coloured pearl is the most esteemed by the natives: some have a bright, red lustre; others are gray, or blackish, without any shining appearance, and of no value. Sometimes when the gray lamella of a pearl is taken off, under it is found a beautiful genuine one; but it oftener happens that after having separated the first coat you find a worthless impure pearl. I tried several of them, taking one lamella off after another, and found clear and impure by turns; and in an impure pearl I met with one of a clear water, though in the centre of all I found a foreign particle. The largest and most perfect pearl which I saw during my stay at Condatchey, was about the size of a small pistol bullet, though I have been told since my departure, many others of the same size have been found. The spotted and irregular ones are sold cheap, and are chiefly used by the native physicians as an ingredient in their medicines.

"We may judge with greater or lesser probability by the appearance

of the pearl-shell, whether they contain pearls or not. Those that have a thick calcareous crust upon them, to which *serpulae* (sea tubes) *Tubuli marinini irregulariter intorti*, *Crista-galli Chamari lazuras*, *Lepas tinctinabulum*, *Madrepore*, *Millipore*, *Cellipore*, *Gorgonte*, *Spongia*, and other zoophytes, are fastened, have arrived at their full growth, and commonly contain the best pearls; but those that appear smooth contain either none, or small ones only." P. 401.

LVII. Graphic Illustrations of Hogarth; from Pictures and Drawings in the Possession of SAMUEL IRELAND, Author of this Work; of a Picturesque Tour through Holland, Brabant, &c. and of the Picturesque Beauties of the Rivers Thames, Medway, Avon, Wye, &c. Vol. II. Royal 8vo. pp. 150. 2l. 2s. Faulder, White.

LIST OF PLATES,

Engraved by the Author, Jane Ireland, Merigot, Ryder, Rosenburg, &c.

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18. *Lavinia Fenton*, afterwards Duchess of Bolton.
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22. Scene in Mr. Rich's Garden, at Cowley.
23. Scene in a Hay-field at Rickmersworth
24. Falstaff examining his Recruits.
25. The Miller.
26. Mr. John Dennis, the Critic.
27. Boys peeping at Nature, original Receipt for Harlot's Progress.
28. Original Design for Rake's Progress.
29. Sleeping Shepherd.
30. Female Curiosity.
31. Scene in a Painter's Room.
32. Ill Effects of Masquerades.
33. Auction of Pictures.
34. Lady Pembroke.
35. Hazard Table.
36. Hippesley.
37. Conversation in the Style of Van dyck.
38. Original Design for the Enraged Musician.
39. Scene at a Banking-house, in 1745.
40. Broughton and Slack. *
41. Plate I. Happy Marriage.
42. — II. Ditto.
43. — III. Ditto.
44. — IV. Ditto.
45. Satire on false Perspective.
46. George II. Queen Caroline, and Family.
47. Design for a new Order in Architecture.
48. Profiles of Garrick and Hogarth.
49. Shakespeare Chair.

EXTRACTS.

ROSAMOND'S POND.

"THIS view is taken from a well-painted picture in oil by our artist, and is, I believe, except a landscape I purchased of the late Mrs. Hogarth, and which I have already laid before the public, the only one produced from his pencil.

"It is evident that the model which Hogarth imitated in this branch of the art was Wotton, a landscape-painter of considerable merit in the early part of this century, but whose great fault was a want of discrimination and character in the leafings of his trees, that generally produced a sombre and

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gloomy tint, very unpleasing in its effect. In the view before us, however, the scene is well selected. The abbey towers break upon the eye in a very pleasing manner, and the trees are very pleasingly massed. The figures bear very strong and characteristic indications of the artist's humour; and what renders them peculiarly interesting is, that they are memorials of the costume of the times in which the personages represented in the picture lived.

"The spot where Rosamond's pond stood was at the south-west corner of St. James's Park; and it was not filled up till within the last thirty years.

"It appears that our laughter-loving monarch Charles the Second had formed a more than common attachment to this spot. He planted an avenue of trees, and built an aviary near it; and from the circumstance of the bird-cages having been suspended on the branches of the trees, the present name which it bears, that of the Bird cage Walk, was derived. Cibber, in his Apology for his life, says, that he has often seen that merry monarch in the act of feeding his ducks in this pond, and playing with his dogs amidst crowds of spectators; diversions with which the king was peculiarly gratified; 'and which,' he adds, 'made the common people adore him, and consequently over-look in him what in a prince of a different temper they might have been out of humour at.'

"It is a curious fact that Charles conferred on Rosamond's Pond, or Duck Island, as it was called, an extraordinary dignity, by erecting it into a government, of which the celebrated M. de St. Evremond was appointed governor, with a considerable salary annexed to the office.

"This retreat was at that period equally celebrated for those assignations of gallantry to which, in large and populous towns, retired spots are so very favourable, as well as for its having been resorted to as the last refuge of despairing lovers, who found in the friendly waters of this pond an asylum from the afflictions that haunted them. It should seem that it was frequently used for the latter purposes, from a passage in the Country Wife of Wycherly, where Belville and Moody are alluding to this subject.

" Belville. Shall I show the young gentleman Rosamond's Pond ?

" Moody. You may visit Rosamond's Pond, Sir, if you will, and the bottom of Rosamond's Pond." P. 57.

MR. JOHN DENNIS.

" THE curious sketch from which this etching is made, is very slightly marked on a scrap of blue paper. Beneath the pen markings, the tracings of the pencil are very discernible. I conjecture, therefore, that it is a rapid delineation from the life. It is after the style and manner of the various sketches, which Hogarth traced for the characters in his greater works, some of which I presented to the public in a former volume, as specimens of his mode of sketching on his nails a countenance or figure, in which any thing characteristic or striking appeared. Over it is plainly written, in Hogarth's hand writing, 'Mr. Dennis the critic.'

" I need not apologize for its infestation, as there is not, I believe, any portrait of this original and interesting character in existence; a circumstance that must render it in a great degree valuable not only to the admirers of our artist, but to the collectors of portraits in general." P. 78.

" Dennis was the author of many miscellaneous productions. The poetical compositions of this gentleman are not distinguished by much felicity of thought, or vivacity of expression. The models which his muse appears to have before her, seem to be those poets who wrote in a period of our language, when false and distorted metaphor, and harsh and vehement conceits, obscured the sense, and banished all that genuine taste and feeling, which constitute the excellence of poetry.

" He attempted also the drama; but with a success which gave him but little encouragement to persevere in that department of composition.

" In these dramas are to be found passages, bearing an immediate allusion to the political controversies of that day. During the war with France, he was perpetually introducing into his

writings the most virulent attacks on the French nation and character; a vulgar stratagem, too often resorted to by dramatic authors, to gain the approbation of the audience, by flattering their prejudices." P. 80.

" Amongst the various peculiarities of this singular character he professed to have entertained a most infirmutable antipathy to punning: nay, so hostile was he to this species of wit, that he has been known to quit the company where puns have been made. There is an anecdote not generally known, which tends further to illustrate his most eccentric character.—One night at Button's, Steele was desirous of excluding him from a party which he wished to make, but which he could not conveniently manage, Dennis being at that time in the coffee-room. While he was at a loss to get rid of him, he observed Rowe sitting on the opposite side of the box to Dennis, the latter of whom he asked—what was the matter with him.—' What do you mean by the question?' replied the critic. To which the other replied—' You appeared to me like an angry waterman, for you look one way and Rowe another.' The effort of this pun was successful, and the critic left the room, execrating all puns and punsters. We are indebted to Dennis for the useful dramatic imitation of thunder, so successfully practised on our stage. He introduced it into his tragedy of Appius and Virginia, a play founded on the beautiful narration of Livy, but which met with a very cold reception. A few nights after the demise of his piece, he happened to be in the pit at the representation of Macbeth; and, on hearing the thunder, he is said to have exclaimed in a phrenzy of indignation, ' That is my thunder!—how these rascals use me! They will not let my play run, and yet they steal my thunder!'

" Of his critical sagacity, a more favourable estimate may be formed, than of his dramatic abilities. It has been frequently found that the talents of the critic and the writer are very separate endowments. The judgment of Dennis was found and correct. It has been well said of him, though

* There is a portrait of him, in a tie wig, engraved by Vandergucht.—See Bromley's Catalogue.—ED.

with too much sarcasm, that he was a complete instructor for a dramatic poet; as he could teach him how to distinguish good plays by his precepts, and bad ones by his example." P. 82.

" An anecdote is recorded of him, that cannot be told much to the honour of Sir Richard Steele. It is said, that having become bail for that gentleman, he was arrested on account of his default: and that the only answer returned by his friend, when he was informed of the circumstance, was, 'sdeath! why did he not keep out of the way, as I did?'

" Towards the close of his life, his embarrassments augmented so rapidly, that he resided for the security of his person within the verge of the court. Having, on a Saturday evening, strayed beyond his privileged bounds to a public house, such were his apprehensions, that having, as soon as he entered, cast his eyes on a man, whose countenance did not augur very favourably to him, he crept into an obscure corner, to avoid the notice of

the person, whom his fears converted into a bailiff.

" At length, however, the clock struck twelve, when the critic threw off his alarm, and cried out, 'Now, Sir, ' bailiff or no bailiff, your power is expired, I don't care a farthing for you.' To relieve him from his necessities, it was humanely proposed to get up a play for his benefit. Of this scheme, Pope, Thomson, and Mallet were the proposers. The play of the Provoked Husband was accordingly represented at the little theatre in the Haymarket, on the 18th of December 1733.

" Dennis, who was now become blind, by his miseries and indigence, seems to have disarmed his enemies of their bitterness, which his asperities had so frequently provoked. The prologue on this occasion was furnished by Pope, and Theophilus Cibber recited it. These unavailing efforts of friendship, Dennis survived but twenty days. He died on the 6th of January 1733—4, in the 77th year of his age." P. 85.

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